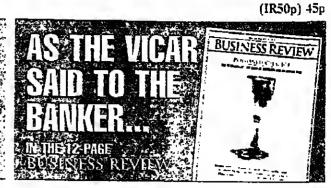
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THE INDEPENDENT

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Nato pours in new firepower

BY MARCUS TANNER AND MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

BRITAIN AND the United States announced a huge escalation of the war against the Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic vesterday, as the two allies said they were sending "substantial reinforcements" to hack Nato's action against Serbia.

The Prime Minister said a second Armoured Battle Group would be sent to support military personnel already in Greece and Macedonia. swelling their number by about 1.800 to 6.300.

They are being sent so that the UK can be in a position to

INSIDE

- Mending fences with Russia
- Accidental victims of Nato bombs
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- A diplomatic settlement Review, page 4

play our proper role in the international effort, to ensure the refugees are able to return to Kosovo in safety," he said.

The conflict we now face in Kosovo is a test of our commitment and our resolve to en sure that the 21st century does not begin with a continuing reminder in Europe of the worst aspects of the century now

drawing to a close." The first units will sail today from Emden in north Germany to Thessaloniki in Greeca, with the "heavy metal" armoured vehicles leaving on Friday. The troops will fly out to join their equipment when it arrives in



Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, and Igor Ivanov, Russia's Foreign Minister, after yesterday's 'useful and timely' meeting in Oslo 'Important progress', page 2 AP

preparing to announce greatly increased military involvement in the Balkan conflict.

Washington said it was planning to double the number of its warplanes in the region and was even broaching the call-up

al Wesley Clark, for more airpower. Pentagon sources said the US was on the verge of approving the dispatch of another 300 planes, bringing its total

urgent request from the Nato 800, about 80 per cent of the Supreme Commander Gener- total. The Pentagon said it would ask Congress to authorise up to \$4bn in emergency funds to pay for the military op-

eration in Kosovo. The aircraft would include F-15s and F-16s, more beavy

bombers, and air-defence support aircraft, including the EA-6 Prowler, which can jam enemy radar.

More refuelling tankers were also on the list. The Pentagon said: "The goal is to increase Nato's ability to attack

forces in Kosovo." The massive increase in US and British firepower presages round-the-clock bombing raids by Nato, in an all-out attempt

Yugoslav army and security risking Nato troops in combat

on the ground. In meetings with Congressmen yesterday, the US President, Bill Clinton, was said still to be resisting calls for the deployment of combat troops on the ground in Kosovo.

The escalation of the allied war effort is intended to counter Serbia's continuing systematic deportation of Kosovo's remaining Albanian

Yesterday, days after the now forgotten "ceasefire" proclaimed by Belgrade, about L000 ethnic Albanians, almost all travelling in tractors and trailers, crossed into northern Albarua after being violently forced from their homes by the Serb police.

After crossing the frontier between midnight and dawn yesterday they were directed to fields on the edge of the northern border town of Kukes. Looking confused and disbevelied, they had reportedly been living in the mountains of Kosovo and some had apparently not eaten proper food for almost two weeks.

Some of the refugees said they had witnessed the sbooting of a young refugee woman who had resisted being singled out from the rest of ber family by the Serbs and taken away for what she feared would

The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, saio in London that he believed Albanian refugee women were being forced to endure "systematic rape" at a Serb army camp in Djakovica, near the Albanian border after refugees arriving in Albania told of sex attacks by

Mr Cook said the news of the camp had emerged from refugees who bad made it across the border. "A number of aid workers have beard the same story from a number of women," be said.

Comparing the Kosovo refugees' experience with the suffering of minorities at the hands of the Nazis in the Second World War, he said: "Nato was born in the aftermath of the defeat of fascism and genocide in Europe. Nato will not now allow this century to end with a triumph of fascism and

Serbs enter Albania and burn village

Breast cancer error may have killed 11

SERB FORCES pushed into northern Albania yesterday, engaging the country's troops in a firefight and seizing a border village, where they torched homes before withdrawing. The incursion raised immediate fears that the conflict is in danger of spreading.

"We have seen houses burning, we have seen the flames, said Pier Gonggripj, head of the OSCE monitoring office in Bajram Curri, the largest town in



EMMA DALY IN TROPOJE, ALBANIA

launched their assault. Since it is only 12km from the border, the monitors standing on the roof of their hotel watched Ka-

mid-afternoon, a few Albanian soldiers bung around at a crossroads perhaps 7km shy of settlement perched in a clearing under a ridgeline. It was barely visible, thanks to the persistent drizzle and clouds.

"It is too dangerous to go any further," said Captain Qamil Katuroshi, as two Kosovo rebels trotted up on a pair of ponies, then cantered off up the

menica burning until low road under the gaze of a tele-clouds obscured the view. By vision camera. "The situation was terrible. Now it's quieter." Mr Gonggripj and his monitors had a running commentary of Kamenica, gazing at the tiny the incident since they were listening in to the Albanian border guards' radio frequency.

"Shortly before I o'clock there was some shelling with mortars of Kamenica - that was nothing new because it has been bappening for the last three days," Mr Gonggripj explained. "Then at about 1.10 we

crossed the border and were advancing on the border police post. They were already firing their weapons. The border police chief ordered them to open fire against the intruders."

The chief's actual words were: "Be a man, we will support you. Then, he warned his men against getting surrounded and advised them to withdraw:

"At 13.20 ... we heard on the

heard ... them saying that the radio that the Yugoslav sol-Yugoslav light infantry had diers - there were about 50 of diers - there were about 50 of them - had reached the house where our sub-office used to be and then one minute later that they had reached the Kamenica border post." Mr Gonggripj added.

Within 10 minutes came the news that the Yugoslav forces were retreating from the village and that there were no Albanian casualties. The Albanian Army fired artillery at the **TURN TO PAGE 3**

year had shown that the unit

portant that women have con-

are reassured by the action we

An Exeter solicitor. Chris

Over, said he was co-ordinating

the claims of about 50 patients

have taken," she said.

screening service.

No Gimmicks, No Games, AUSTRIA 100 CHINA 35p Just simple HONG KONG 12D savings INDIA 48p ISRAEL 15 on your JAPAN 161 phone bill. MALAYSIA 20 MAURITIUS 40r NZ/. DZ 13r Pay monthly by Direct: wanted to reiterate the apology Debit or Pre-Pay RUSSIA 30r offered to the patients in 1997 "and reassure them that the No need to change your lessons that needed to be learnt phone or phone number have been learnt". An audit last SINGAPORE was now working well. "It is im-SOUTH AFRICA 31 fidence in the [service] and

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PRIMUS GLOBAL network GLOBAL savings GLOBAL sense



Dobson: Call for report

FAILURES IN an NHS breast screening unit may have cost the lives of up to 11 women and put a further 74 at risk, an inquiry reported yesterday.

The poor standard of care provided by the East Devon breast screening service led to cancers being missed in 24 women and the diagnosis delayed in a further 61, of whom 11 have already died.

An independent disciplinary inquiry set up by the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust found Dr John Brennan, the

BY JEREMY LAURANCE **Health Editor**

the unit based at the hospital, guilty yesterday of personal and professional misconduct and professional incompetence. He bas been reported to the General Medical Council.

Dr Brennan, who had been suspended on fuli pay since 1997, resigned last week after receiving his copy of the report. In a statement he said be did not agree with its findings.

time. This found 229 women out of 1,920 had been misdiagnosed. The Royal Devon and Exeter Trust set up its own disciplinary inquiry in June 1997 into the section of the East Devon Ser-

vice that was run at the hospital by Dr Brennan. Professor Robin Wilson and a team of 15 radiologists reviewed the cases of 2,125 women who had been The scandal first came to recalled for further checks consultant radiologist who ran light in 1997, prompting Frank between April 1995 and June

for Health, to order a report Exeter Trust said vesterday it from Sir Kenneth Calman. was now able for the first time Chief Medical Officer at the to confirm the number of women whose cancers had been missed or whose diagnosis had been delayed.

Dobson, the Secretary of State 1997. The Royal Devon and

A total of 24 women received a new diagnosis of cancer after the review, and all were receiving appropriate care and treatment. A further 61, with cancer diagnosed between 1991 and 1997, were identified as having had a delayed diagnosis; 11 of these women have since died. arising out of the failure of the

Angela Pedder, the chief ex-

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Govan yard threat Shipyard for sale as Kvaerner shake-up puts 5,000 jobs at risk Home P6

NHS for 21st century Nurses to replace GPs as 'gatekeepers' to care

The US President fights a contempt ruling Foreign P14 HOME 5-12, FOREIGN 13-14, BUSINESS 15-19, SPORT 20-26, CRYPTIC CROSSWORD 26, WEATHER 2

Barclays merger talks The inspector called Call to unite Europe Romano Prodi, new EU Royal Bank of Scotland may renew its offer chief, plans a fresh push towards integration **Business P15** Foreign P13

Jockey accused Graham Bradley has been charged with conspiring to cheat Sport P26

How Chris Woodhead took a tumble in the blackboard jungle Front

John Lichfield

Features P8 What can we learn from the tunnel disaster?

lan Botham

The great bon viveur

Tip-top Top Shop High fashion hits the high street Fashion P9

and former all-rounder answers your questions

BACK PAGE

Refugee in Macedonia

"The last thing we need is for the conflict to spread

to neighbouring countries" Kofi Annan, **UN** secretary-general

"These accusations are false. Yugoslav troops did not enter Albania"

Nebojsa Vujovic, Yugoslav spokesman Skender Haziri, refugee

"The army throw people out and use their houses as hiding places during the [Nato] attacks"

"You can't hold ground by air power... [but] by a 17year-old with a bayonet" King Leka, pretender to

Albanian throne

"Arm the Kosovars? But do we really want another Afghanistan?"

Pat Buchanan, US presidential candidate

BRIEFING

■ The Netherlands will: send 360 troops to Albania this week to take

part in Nato's refugee relief effort Operation Allied Harbour, 220 marines and 140 army personnel, as well as: freight and rough terrain vehicles, will be sent.

British soldiers in the last 24 hours distributed 2600 meals, 1600 chicken pieces. 1 pailet apples, 4,500 loaves, 6 pallets of water.

The British army's catering support is being

take over.

wound down and will end on Friday as aid agencies

Bosnia has established

■ 68 lorries carrying 300

Serbia crossed the border

more than 300 additional

US aircraft to use against

a crisis centre to deal

with refugees pouring

tons of Russian and

Belarus relief aid for

■ Nato has asked for

from Hungary to

Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavla.

into the country.

DAY 21

Russians and US 'narrow differences'

RUSSIA BY PHIL REEVES IN MOSCOW

THE WEST yesterday moved decisively to mend fences with an unhappy Russia but made

more urgent question of bringing an end to the three-week Yu-A heavily billed meeting between Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, and ber Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, in Oslo yielded only a vague mutual pledge to go on

little concrete progress on the

talking in search for a solution to the crisis. These were the first face-toface talks between the two since the start of the conflict and - importantly - they clearly belped patch up some of the rawer grievances between Moscow and Washington, whose relations have sharply

deteriorated. But two critical sticking points rose to the fore over the conflict itself: the composition of an international peacekeeping force to be deployed in

Kosovo to protect returning refugees; and the issue of wbeo Nato's bombing campaign should stop. Moscow - and Slobodan Milosevic - wants the onslaught to end at once, paving the path for a political settlement. Nato is only willing to do so once the Yugoslav presideot ends ethnic cleansing. and moves to pull all his forces out of Kosovo.

It was never going to be an easy encounter, given Russia's injured feelings and western annovance at some of the wilder statements emanating from the Kremlin. Yet, after a threebour meeting, both sides sought to put a cheerful spin on

The talks were "very useful and timely", said Mr Ivanov. was "important progress" and a "narrowing of

differences", said Ms Albright. The US Secretary of State went one step further by claiming an agreement in principle

with Russia on issues which were, in fact, never particularly cootested by Moscow. These included the bulk of the alliance's latest demands: the immediate, verifiable, end to repression in Kosovo: the withdrawal of Milosevic's forces from Kosovo; the unconditional and safe return of refugees; and allowing international burnanitarian organisations to operate

throughout Yugoslavia. But there was oo sign of movement on the peacekeeping issue, the composition of the forces to be sent in to protect returning ethnic Albanians after the violence ends.

Our sense is that it bas to have a Nato core, with other countries providing other aspects, or working in co-ordination with it," said Ms Albright.

Russia sees this as a formula for allowing Moscow only a token force, while Nato's troops retain control. It also believes

LIGHTING UP

HIGH TIDES

AIR OUALITY Today's readings

SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE



An ethnic Albanian family pass a checkpoint in their car at the Macedonia-Yugoslavia border yesterday

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

keepers must be acceptable to Mr Milosevic - wbo adamantly opposes Nato forces in

Even if the Olso talks had made headway, it is a long way from finding a formula acceptable to the Serb leader. But neither party emerged from yesterday's encounter empty-

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesda

handed. Russia will have taken the meeting as acknowledgment that they are a central player in resolving the Kosovo crisis - perhaps, the key

The bellicose utterances emanating from Moscow over the last few days - mostly the result of domestic political pressure - appear to have done little damage. Both the US and

Britain have been emphasing the value of Russia's "coostructive role". At the same time, Moscow's refusal to concede much ground yesterday to Ms Albright will have won the applause of Serbs and ordinary Russians

The US and Nato can now flourish the Oslo talks as evidence that they are not, as

many allege, perilously sidelin-

ing Russia, and doing lasting

damage to their relations with

Moscow, an unstable nuclear

power. Both sides in yesterday's

is fair to assume she left Mi Ivanov in no doubt about the dim view taken by Nato of some of the wilder rhetoric coming from Moscow - for example, Mr Yeltsin's warning last week that a Third World War could erupt if the West pushes Russia too far. The Russian Foreign Min-

talks emphasised that bilateral issues, unrelated to Kosovo, were fruitfully discussed. Ms Albright may also feel she has helped to quieten the ister kept his Cold War speechbarrage of Russian criticism. It es to himself yesterday. **Hopes Annan** will pave way to a solution

DIPLOMACY

EUROPE WILL today seek to ternational military presence in

put the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, at the centre of Western efforts to end the crisis in Kosovo, and discuss timing of a possible UN peace mission to Belgrade. The German presidency of the EU bas invited Mr Annan to a meeting of its 15 heads of government in Brussels, m a bid to consolidate diplomatic efforts

to pave the way for a solutioo. Diplomats cautioned yesterday against expectations of an early breakthrough, and argued that a peace mission to Belgrade from Mr Annan now might be premature, running the risk of a rebuff. However Mr Annan has made clear his willngness to talk to Slobodan Milosevic, and several governments, including the Britain, believe he is the West's ideal interlocutor with Belgrade when the time for nego-

tiatioo is right. Germany points out that the position laid down by Mr Annan on the Kosovo crisis last week is close to that of EU and Nato governments. In particuiar the pre-cooditions laid down by Mr Annan for a settlement, are close to the five conditions agreed by Nato and eodorsed by Europe's foreign ministers. These state that Mr Milosevic should cease military actions, withdraw military, paramilitary and police forces from Kosovo, agree to an inKosovo, allow the return of refugees and undertake to work oo the basis of the Rambouillet accord.

But the UN has two other important roles to play. First it constitutes a forum for maintaining contacts with Moscow, which is widely seen as crucial to any eventual settlement of the crisis. Second a UN resolution to cover the international force which eventually enters Kosovo is seen as desirable by a number of Euro-

pean countries. The draft communique like ly to be agreed at today's summit will repeat the existing position, agreed by Nato foreign ministers on Monday, but one diplomat argued that Mr Annan's presence may give the meeting "another dimen-

Although the shape of a settiement could be emerging, that the West's preconditions are still being rejected by Mr Milosevic, who shows little sign of compromise. Meanwhile the Yugoslav president, backed by Russia, still insists that the bombing must cease before talks can resume.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, who will preside at the meeting today. hopes that, at least the Brussels summit will align all the Western diplomatic efforts to

BRITAIN TODAY Noon today

London, SE & Cent S England, E Anglia: Cold but dry and bright this me then prolonged neavy showers moving in, some thundery with hail or sleet, moderate west to north-west wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F).

Channel Is, SW England, S Wales: Junny spells but a few showers too, the odd one heavy and wintry. A freshering north-west wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F). Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Remaining cold with heavy showers breaking out, many of hail, sleet or show with the risk of hunder, A freshening north-west wind, Max temp 5-8C (41-46F).

E England, Cent N & NE England; Early sunshine but cold with showers so breaking out. A fresh west to north-westerly wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F). NW & SM Scotland, Glasgom, W Isles: Cold and windy with sunny spells and frequent heavy, writry showers. A strong north-west wind; gales in north, Max remp 4-7C (39-45f).

NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Odd sunny breaks in the south but mostly cloudy with showers or longer periods of rain. A fresh north to north-west wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F) N Ireland: Early sunny spells disappearing as heavy and at times wintry showers break out. A Ireshening north-west wind. Max temp 5-80 (41-46F).

OUTLOOK

The next few days will remain cold and unsettled with only limited sunny spells further sharp showers for most places, the showers falling as sleet or snow ove the hills with hall possible elsewhere. However, the wind should gradually ease.

TRJ
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout,
Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new
M11 link road. Until 31st December.
Bristol: MS J18-19 Major Roadworks on
Avormouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001.
Warwietshire: M42 Beween J10 Tambords
and contratiow. Until 23rd April.
South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsky
Viaduct (A5109) 8, J34 Tinsky Viaduct
A6178). Shettler Carriageway is reduced
to two larges couthbound. Until 21st

W.E.L. Cheltenham. Clessed due to roadworks inbound. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Co.Antrim: A1 Kingsway. Our murray. Roadworks, various lare restrictions. Until 1st August. Derbyshire: A6 Between Derby Southern Bypass (A50) and Shardow Road round-about. East of Alvaston. Contration for work on new A50. Until 15th October. AR Roadwarder. Call 0335 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Sourte: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (Inc WAT).

For the latest forecasts dial **0891 5009** followed by the trib digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office, Calls charged ar 50p per min (int VAT)

RAIN OR SHINE...

TOURISTS HAVE been told to cancel trips to the Thai holiday islands of Similan and Surin after a moosoon storm sank a ferry heading for the resorts. Forty passengers, mostly tourists, had to be rescued by a passing ferry after their boat, bound for Similan from the mainland of southern Thailand, ran into heavy seas and

driving rain. Thai authorities

have asked travellers to avoid

the very popular area until the

monsooo storms subside

High I will sink south and merge with High G. Complex Low M will drift north-westwards while Low N edges south.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

The Big Number

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BRIEFING The Netherlands val send 360 troops to Albania this week to be Part in Nato's refuget reited affort Operation Afficial Harbour 220 marines and 140 army personnel, as well as treight and rough tends nepicies mill pe selli British soldiers in the

iast 26 hours distribute 2600 meals, 1600 chicken pieces, 1 pale apples, 4 500 loaks, 6 policis of water The British armys council down and wall as on Friday as aid agence or-Cve-Bosnia has establisher a crisis centre to deal with refugees pouring off the country. ■ 66 :orries carrying 36 ons of Russian and Seignus relief aid for Serola crossed the body from Hungary to Vugoslavia Nato has asked for

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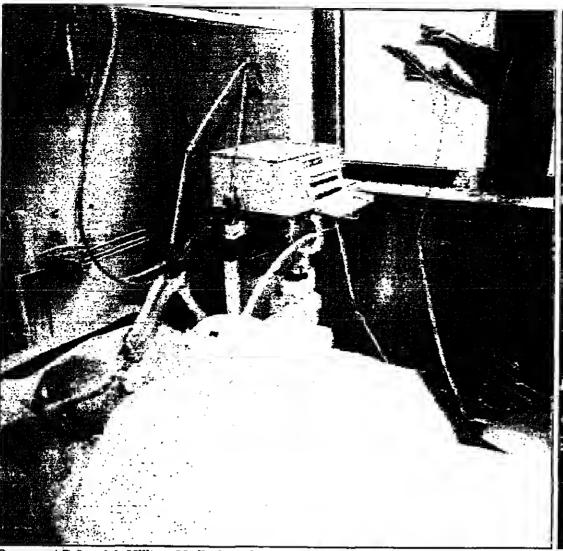
View of the state of the state

Art Services



THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 14 April 1999

WAR IN THE BALKANS





Damage at Belgrade's Military Medical Academy huspital yesterday after a nearby barracks was bit. Left: An intensive care unit with smashed windows. Right: Debris in the waiting room AP. EPA

'Collateral damage' lies dying in a shattered Belgrade hospital

WHEN NATO attacked the Belgrade suburb of Banjica yesterday, its third bomb blasted shards of glass into Dragana Kristic's neck. The target had been a bar-

racks 50 metres away. So that obscene cliché "collateral damage" comes to mind - but for one thing. Dragana was lying in a hospital bed when she was wounded, recovering from a cancer operation that surgeons had performed only a few hours earlier. They had taken a fourand-a-half kilogram tumour from ber stomach.

With her neck and shoulder swaddled in bandages, she looked up at us yesterday from her bed, a pretty dark-haired as she was in pain. "I don't know which hurts more - my stomach, my shoulder or my heart," sbe told us. "It was the third bomb that broke the window and did this to me."

Radisav Milosavljevic – already suffering a serious beart complaint - lay curled up like a giant foetus, bandages covering half can save him." his bead and face, his heart monitor racing on a small

ROBERT FISK IN BELGRADE

screen to the left of his bed. The bombs had vibrated through the entire Military Medical Academy, shaking the bed of 14-year-old Ivan Labovic, critically wounded Pristina on 30 March and now dying - heavily drugged but still conscious - in the intensive care unit. "He was wounded near his home - in the back. the abdomen, stomach, liver She was not the only victim. and spleen," Dr Nenad On a lower floor, 74-year-old Markovic said. "He has had major surgery four times already but the wall of his stomach is missing. I don't think we

> Six other patients lay beside Ivan, one of them a soldier, the

rest civilians, all dying like the 14-year old, all in a coma, all on respirators. Two of them were brain-dead - most were hit by falling masonry during air raids - and a young doctor was using a tube to suck saliva from the throat of a young man gravely wounded in the Nato bombing of Aleksinac 11 days ago. "He will die - I'm afraid they are all going to die," Dr Markovic said. He walked over to where Ivan lay, scarred legs apart, under a mountain of sheets, 12 tubes winding into his nose, throat

"Which football team to do you support?" he asked the dying boy. "Partizans?" There was no movement from the child. "Red Star?" And Ivan moved his eyes towards the doctor and then lowered them for a second. "You see?" Dr Markovic said loudly turning with a small piece of metal to us with a smile. "He supports and put it in my hand. It was Red Star." But Red Star is sure to lose this supporter. "Their wounds are too terrible," the doctor said. "What can we

and stomach.

The medical staff have hung a large red cross from the roof of their hospital and a smaller staff were sweeping into silver. red cross flag to the side of the wintry piles around the hospi-

vast 18-year-old building. Half tal grounds with their blosits 1,000 patients are civiliansnon-military personnel can buy their way into the hospital's care with medical insurance and the other half soldiers and members of army families.

But the medical centre is located in a suburb teeming with barrack buildings, parade grounds and army compounds. Most of them are deserted and Nato was evidently not aiming at the hospital. But it knew the risk it was taking when it bombed the army garages behind the hospital's teaching centre. And it wounded Dragana Kristic.

metres away; was that worth empty barrack buildings? the risk lo this hospital?" Dr Markovic asked. A colleague. Dr Radoslav Svicevic, walked in from the broken glass door part of the fuse cap of a bomb, its jagged edges clinging to my fingers. "I just found this outside the door," he said.

Hundreds of windows lay in pieces around the hospital millions of glass splinters, which

trations in death and destruc- trains - to blow up a bridge. So soms and magnolia trees.

Dr Markovic's question was a moral one. True, this hospital is a military institution with General Aco Jovicic as its bead. True, there are soldiers as well as civilians among the patients. But wounded soldiers in field hospitals are supposed to be safe from attack under the rules of war, as well as civilians. What if the Nato bombs had deviated just a few metres, as they had at Aleksinac where 24 people are known to have been killed? Did Dragana Kristic and Radisav Milosavtjevic have to be lacerated by glass in an "The bombs were only 50 attempt to destroy a row of

> With a communist's pr ence for rhetoric rather than argumeet - and an ability to destroy any arguments with exaggeration on an epic scale -General Invicic loudly denounced the damage to his hospital as a "war crime".

Yugoslavia, he told us, was fighting in "a dance against Satan" and "only the crimes of Ghengis Khan" could compare to the Nato attacks on Serbia. The Americans were "psychopaths realising their frus-

tion all over the world". We wanted him to stop, to let facts speak for themselves, to end this genuinely angry but non-

sensical tirade. Walking the wards of the Belgrade Military Medical Academy, I remembered another hospital I walked through seven years ago, in Sarajevo, deliberately shelled for months by Bosnian Serb forces. And I thought of those thousands of Kosovo Albanians, dispossessed, in despair, who desperately need the care and compassion that these Serb doctors demonstrate each day in this Belgrade hospital. But victims cannot be balanced

The Nato spokesman, Jamie Shea, says the alliance goes to "extraordinary lengths" to avoid civilian casualties. But this is totally untrue. On Monday, Nato planes destroyed a passenger train in south-eastern Serbia while bombing a bridge that it called "a military supply line". In other words, it was prepared to attack a railway track in mid-morning - in full knowledge that the railway

carried scheduled passenger

much for Mr Shea's "extraordinary lengths". And the same applied in

Banjica yesterday. Nato bombed a barracks and wounded hospital patients. By a terrible irony, we found Mira Drijaca waiting outside the medical centre to visit her wounded brother Mica. Mira is a paediatric doctor, Mica is a surgeon. And be was wounded while tending to patients at a clinic more than a week ago in another Nato bombing attack, this time on a nearby military airport outside Kraljevo. He was brought to Belgrade with his legs covered in burns.

Mira carried a plastic bag er eggs for her brother. "He did nothing wrong to the pilot of the plane that wounded him," she said. "I don't think the pilot knows why he bombed. He was ordered to do it." As for her brother: "I tell him to endure."

In ber bed, Dragana Kristic is less forgiving in her pain. "If I met the pilot that did this," she said, touching the bandages at her neck, "I could only wish for his child to have a day like I had."

Reprisal theory over attack

FROM FRONT PAGE

enemy forces - "the first time of any response from the Albanian side", according to Mr Gonggripj. He supports the Albanian line that the Kosovo Liberation Army is not active in Kamenica – although Bajram Curri and the border area is known to be dotted with KLA training camps and smuggiers' routes used to run guns into Kosova.

Observers speculate that the assault on Kamenica might have come in reprisal for KLA attacks elsewhere - Capi Katuroshi, among others, claimed the KLA had won control of the Koshara border post, attacking the Serbs from inside Kosovo. The OSCE has heard rumours to this effect, but has no confirmation of the inci-

Monitors have reported eight KLA dead and eight wounded from fighting in Kosovo, including four soldiers who crossed into a minefield. Mr Gonggripj had also heard rumours that the soldiers caught in the minefield had fought for three days without food, water or rest and that rumour, he said. is "a bit more logical" than the

Koshara story. The Kamenica assault will have the twin effect of scaring people away from the borderregion, which will suit the Serbs, who want free rein to pursue the KLA.

Frightened civilians from Tropoje and another village, Vichidol, walked along the muddy track towards Bajram Curri, herding sbeep, goats and cattle too valuable to be left behind in case of another Serbian attack. Two donkeys overloaded with bundles of possessions plodded through the rain while their owner wandered behind, sheltering under a large umbrella.

In Tropoje itself, where three people have been killed and 16 wounded by Serb sbells in the past few days, Ziz Shabani, 61, and other villagers are living underground in an L-shaped bunker perhaps 2m wide and 2m high. We are hiding bere because the Serbs are sbelling our village - we are afraid." she beds covered in grey blankets which now furnish the shelter, and which they moved into shortly after the first Nato air strikes drew retaliatory Serb shelling

"It's impossible to live here but we must. We are here 24 hours a day, we only go out to eat or get food and water for our personal needs," added Rusa Mula. 50, explaining that they are too frightened to go bome and cook.

Pilot bombed train twice, says Nato

it yesterday as an "uncanny accident". That was his description of the circumstances in which an allied warplane to illustrate the snap judgebombed a Serb train near Leskovac twice on Monday, killing at least nine people. Wesley Clark, Nato's

Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, gave a graphic account of the incident revealing that, having hit the train unintentionally once, the pilot targeted a second bomb on the other end of the bridge, only to wreak more damage on the

The description of the event, which Nato acknowledged was its most unfortunate episode so far of "collateral damage", illustrates how split-second judgements and luck decide life and death in modern

Showing cockpit film of the incident, General Clark described the incident at a packed press conference at Nato's

NATO'S TOP general described headquarters in Brussels. For once, the pilot's-eye-view video, now a familiar feature of televised war coverage, was used ments that air crews have to take, rather than their mechanical success in destroying military targets.

General Clark described how, as the pilot "stared intently at the aim point, all of a sudden - with less than a second to go - he caught a flash of move-

That proved to be the train, identifiable on the film, moving very swiftly from left to right of the pilot's vision. General Clark said the pilot "couldn't dump the bomb", partly because it was a "remotely directed attack" at that point outside his command

by now, concealed by smoke. "At

TRAIN ATTACK AFTERMATH

By STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels



Video from the nose of a Nato missile showing the train on the bridge moments before the weapon struck

More surprisingly, although the pilot realised what had hapny accident, the train bad pened he decided to attack the other end of the bridge, alsbunted forward from the inithough much of the area was, tial impact." Because of its movement

the last minute again," contin- towards the other end of the ued the general, "in an uncan- bridge, the second strike caused more damage. When journalists arrived at the scene three hours after the attack. three railway carriages had hot and smoking. With a typically military de-

gree of understatement, General Clark added: "It was certainly an unfortunate incident which we and he and the crew and all of us regret." He added: "It was one of the regrettable things that happen in a campaign like this. We are all very sorry for it."

Mindful, perhaps, of the propaganda aid that the bridge attack has given to the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, yesterday's demonstration at Nato seemed designed to sbow that the alliance was not holding back any information about the attack. However, it still left unanswered the question of why the bridge was attacked for a second time once the train's presence was known

Later, a senior air commander said that the nilot would have been under orders to attack the bridge twice, and said

been incinerated and were still other distractions in the cockpit might have drawn the pilot's eye from his screen.

The incident bas caused particular concern at Nato because, throughout its threeweek air campaign, military chiefs have stressed the lengths to which they bave gone to shield civilians from their war with Mr Milosevic. That determination was repeated yesterday, General Clark promising that Nato was going to do everything we can to continue to work the air campaign in an effective and systematic manner that avoids needless casualties and avoids collateral damage".

As for the identity of the pilot whose judgement will continue to be debated. Nato declined to reveal either his nationality or the type of the aircraft involved. But General Clark defended his decision to return for a second attack on the bridge. "He was trying to do his job and take the bridge down," he said.





£400,000 donated to Independent's appeal



READERS OF The Independent have raised nearly £400,000 to help the refugees from Kosovo. The appeal launched two weeks ago - is part of an effort co-ordinated by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to heip those affected by the war.

That wider appeal has now topped £12m. "Its phenomenal," said a spokesman for the DEC. With more money coming in all the time, Muslim Aid, which has already allo-

cated £610,000 towards the re- Save the Children, Tearfund lief effort, also announced it has increased its pledge to £1m. The charity is now also considering chartering a plane next week to take relief supplies to refugees in Albania.

The national joint appeal has been organised on behalf of 15 charities, which include the British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Cafod, Care International UK, Children's Aid Direct, Concern Worldwide. Help the Aged, Merlin, Oxfam,

and World Vision The DEC spokesman con-

tinued: "Staff are working flat out to sort postal donations. which are just getting bigger and bigger. We just hope donations keep on coming in." More than 500,000 Kosovo

Albanians have either fled or been forced from their homes by Serb ethnic cleansing of the province. Since the exodus began two weeks ago, civilians have been flooding into Alba-

nia, Macedonia and the Yugoslav province of Montenegro. More than 300,000 refugees have entered Albania alone.

The money raised by The Independent will be used to buy food, shelter, warm clothes and sanitation for the displaced people.

Tents, blankets and medical supplies are also being sent to the region. The weather is still wintry in the Balkans, and most of the refugees have only the clothes on their backs.

HOW TO MAKE A DOMATION Send a cheque or postal order to:

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签D

Database of hope helps the missing

REFUGEES

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

OPPOSITE THE lunchtime food queue, behind the Israelirun field hospital in the refugee camp at Brazda, is a big green tent for what the aid workers in Macedonia call the "special cases". Inside the hustle and hustle of camp life recedes. There is oo chatter, no ooisy babies or teenagers. Instead, there are elderly people, refugees from Kosovo so feeble or sick that it is a wooder they made it through at all.

They lie here all day, barely moving, wrapped in shapeless clothes and shawls, talking in quiet voices. One old couple do not even have names. Mute or mentally disabled, they lie here all day, staring into space. Among them is a 65-year-old man named Muhamed Saliha. He is one of the most active. A fortnight ago, he had a tung operation; immediately afterwards, the Serbs deported him from Kosovo with 30 members of his extended family.

At the border, he was separated from them all, apart from his 99-year-old mother. She lies beside him. He tost his wife: his missing sons and daughters had young children. "We suffer more from thinking of our families than from our sickness," he says, clutching a battered Xray print of his darkened lungs. This X-ray is what makes him

But help, perhaps, is at



A noticeboard helping refugees find their missing families at Staknovic camp, in Skopja, Macedonia

tion of tents that is the camp's nerve centre. Here the British army, which built Brazda, are handing over its running to civilian agencies. The job of registering the resideots has been taken in hand by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Now the focus is shifting to a tent bearing the crest of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and known as the Tracing Centre. done for Mr Saliha, it is here

that it will he begin. More than half a millioo Kosovo Albanians have been er, exposure and violence are refugee exodus has created a different kind of suffering far more difficult to alleviate - the anguish of separated families.

No one knows how many individuals have been affected. but the task is enormous. The ICRC operation is still in its early stages and for now it is If there is anything that can be documenting only separated children and parents, plus the elderly, the sick, pregnant womeo and others unable to look after themselves. The Red

the physical dangers of hung- their heads when asked how many inquiries they receive past. But the chaos of the they amount to hundreds,

The ICRC has been attempting to reunite people divided by conflict ever since its foundation in the 19th century and the basic task has changed little in the past 80 years. In a library in southern Germany are seven million cards bearing the names of prisoners of war and displaced civilians from the First World War, the Second World War generated 20 million more. In

past three weeks and for most, many of them refugees, shake Red Cross' techniques for hringing people together have heen far outstripped by the development of the weaponry which drives them apart. But here that is changing - the refugee crisis in the Balkans is turning out to be the first humanitarian crisis in which high technology provides solu-

tions as well as suffering. In part, this is a result of its location - a developed European country with a literate, urban population. The symbot of this is the mobile phone, which is seen everywhere in the distressed areas - and not

"That's one of the unique things about this crisis," says Martin Merkelbach. "After a situation like Rwanda. it's extraordinary."

In its office in Skopje, Mr Merkelbach's division is roadtesting its newest piece of technology – an internal satel-lite communications system installed two years ago. It employs the same oetwork used hy the International Association of Travet Agents; with it, messages can be sent from one Red Cross hranch to another instantaneously to

refugees. Having been gathered with pen and ink, informatioo about lost children and parents can be collated and cross-referenced on computer.

Computer technicians are being flown in from Geneva; there is talk of transferring the pathetic lists of lost children which flap from walls and noticeboards in the camps to an Internet site. Mr Merkelbach talks of the day when volunteers will go out into camps with modems through which refugees will communicate with relatives via e-mail.

But for oow, the process is

than a few dozen people have been reunited by the ICRC. Of the 130,000 lost children registered in Rwanda, fewer than half have found their parents. Even the file cards from 1918 are still open; m fact they are in active use. "Every day there are requests relating to the Second World War," says Mr Merkelbach. "The First World War ones are not so common

but we still get them." It is a peculiar feeling, part inspiring and part chilling, to stand in the Brazda camp and realise that 60 years from now the husiness of this place may

FO stopped Sandline working for Kosovars

MERCENARIES By PAUL LASHMAR

INDEPENDENCE LEADERS in Kosovo - not the KLA - and would "bomb periodically, but Kosovo asked Sandline International, the British mercenary firm, to help in their armed struggle against Serbian rule, but the Foreign Office warned off Sandline because of the United Natioos arms embargo on Belgrade.

Sandline has been involved erations. They were at the centre of the "Arms to Sierra Leone" scandal which caused great embarrassment to the Foreign Office and the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook.

Lieutenant Colooel Tim Spicer, head of Sandline, says representatives of the Kosovar government approached them late last year for help to protect themselves from ethnic cleansing. "We were cootacted by the representatives of the iselfproclaimed) government of not send in ground troops but be oo match for Nato.

asked whether we would be able to in any way assist them with advice or military training (for a fee)," he said in a BBC interview. Col Spicer said it was not a question of Sandline providing mercenaries but in giving advice and training. "I think we would have been more in a number of controversial op- concerned with helping them

cleansing," he added. After the Kosovars approached Sandline, the Foreign Office hastily brought into force in February a statutory instrument banning British naproviding military training in

Col Spicer, who was Sir Michael Rose's spokeman in Bosnia in the early Nineties, has also predicted that Nato will

provide (or at least allow) training and arms for the KLA to let

it defend Kosovo". In a statement yesterday on the Sandline website, he says: "I had firsthand experience of oegotiations with the likes of Karadic and Mladic, who are essentially of the same mindset as Milosevic. They demonstrated protect themselves from ethnic a fanatical patriotic resolve, stubbornness, cunning and ruthlessness, together with a highly developed level of

brinkmanship. "What should happen is that, in spite of the Serbs ruthless tionals and companies from streak, Nato should realise they are bullies - it is one thing to be defiant in the face of remote bombardment and defenceless civilians in Kosovo, but when confronted with effective ground troops their forces will



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300 monthly interest payments of £192.70 net of tax relief plus the final repayment of £40,000 capital. 300 monthly endowment premiums of 200 monthly interest partners to 1.12. So includes £300 booking lee, £65 deeds handling fee (charged on redemption), £145 valuation fee, E62.62. Total amount payone a two, 157-50 includes a source green, and decreas namining fee (charged on redemption), 6145 valuation ree, 117-50 legal fees, 612.00 gioss actived interest assuming completion on 30/09/99. In this example no activant has been taken of any change in interest rate which may occur at the end of the capped rate period. All rates correct at time of going to press. We require the property of the capped rate period of the capped rate period. in interest rate which may occur at the case of the case of your property, and at the case of endowment mortgages an endowment/file policyfor the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy loans subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under the for the amount of the annunce one of change over the policy located appears an solution and are not available to persons under the age of 18. Written qualiforms available on request Abbey National pic, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, only sells its age of 18. Written quoraments are unsupers on the personal resources products and the assurance, pension and collective investment scheme products. Abbey National plc, the Umbreila Couple symbol and Because lite's complicated enough are trademarks of Abbey National pic, Pegistered Office, Abbey House, Baker Street, Tondon NW1 6XL, United Kingdons

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WAR IN THE BALKANS

HE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 14 April 1993

Paul Lowe Magnum Ph

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Even the file cards from h

Albania helpless in face of aggressor

INVASION

BY STEVE BOGGAN in Tirana

DURING HIS tyrannical reign over Albania, the Maoist dictator Enver Hoxha built almost one million concrete pillboxes to defend his country and unify its downtrodden people against invasions that he knew would never happen. Like Slobodan Milosevic, he realised that there was nothing to compare with the threat of war to marshal a country's people behind its leader.

The crumbling hunkers still litter the countryside, pointing comically in all directions like pale mushrooms, which are a constant reminder of the futility of Hoxha's rule.

Finally, vesterday, someone did invade. Serbian infantry took the border post at Kamenica and torched two towns. And the pillboxes, used for decades as toilets and mangers, proved to be just as useless as Hoxha had always known they would be.

Such helplessness in the face of aggression is one of the reasons the Albanian government last week invited Nato to take over its sea and air ports. Even before the civil unrest of 1997 which hrought down the government of Dr Sali Berisha, Albania's military was somewhat toothless. After, when military arsenals had been littered by angry civilians (and sold on to the Kosovo Liberabon Army), it was positively moribund

According to the latest publicly available figures, Albania's rag-tag army boasts 859 hattle tanks, 103 armoured personnel carriers and 823 artillery pieces. The Navy has one submarine and 31 patrol boats, and the Air Force has 98 combat aircraft. What the figmuch of the hardware dates from the 1960s, is Chinese-built and would not look out of place in a military museum.

So when news of the incursion reached the people of Tirana, where in the past there would have been fear, there was only anger and indignation. After all, Alhania is now becoming Nato's launch pad for any ground action against the Serbs in Kosovo.

"The Serbs are cowards they would never dare attack us now we are with Nato" said Tatiana Muka, 35, a shoe shon assistant, "I hate the Serbs and in the past, I would have been scared they would have invaded all the way. But not now."

Yesterday, evidence of Albania's status at Nato's new forward base was beginning to emerge at Durres, the country's main seaport, and at Tirana airport, where a military huild-up is gathering pace in tandem with the aid effort. Until recently, Autum

Daniels from Seattle had no idea where Albania was, much less Kosovo, But here she was, standing in the airport mud, a tiny figure carrying an M60 sub-machine-gun almost as big as she was. "I'm here for the people," she said. "Tve seen the pictures of babies crying and families being forced out of their homes and I don't like it. Of course, we've all talked about more serious conflicts, but that's not why we're here right now." All around Airman Daniels, other American, French, Greek, Turkish and Dutch soldiers were busy doing their hit to feed 600,000 in

camps all over the region. But with the presence of "Operation Hawk" personnel

HUNGARY ROMANIA YUGOSLAVIA BOSNIA Fuel depot hit ROMANIA Oil refineries thit in Novi Sad KOSOVO BULGARIA MACEDONIA Oll refineries GREECE THE 4TH ARMOURED BRIGADE ON THE WAY YUGO Army barrocks, two miles south of the capital Belgrade were bombed BULGARIA Serbian forces bur Kosovar-Albanian houses in Stari Huge fires reported around Pristina MONTENEGRO BOSNIA SERBIA BULGARIA Brigade HQ and lead battle group aiready in Macedonia Podgorica Adriatic Serb forces burn 1,800 new UK troops will be flown to Thessaloniki in Greece from Germany and the UK. Their military E D O N I A GREECE hardware sails today from Emden in Germany. Once reunited with the equipment, troops will head for Skople in Macedonia

rival of Apache attack helicopters from America, one could not help feeling that a beach-bead was being created for the arrival of less humanitarian equipment, Last Friday, Durres, west of Tirana, was a sleepy harbour for ferries to and from Italy. Yesterday, huge French troop carriers were there, disgorging hundreds of soldiers. Medecins San Frontieres, the medical charity, has been complaining for some time that the use of Nato troops

neutral places of safety. At Tirana airport, the lines appeared more blurred than ever. Operating around the clock, its single airstrip had been taking up to 60 transporter planes a day. American C-17 Globemasters and C-130 Hercules from Ramstein in Germany accounted for twothirds of the flights, the rest being operated from other Nato Once on the ground, the ald

at refugee camps, while Nato is

bombing Yugoslavia, is com-

promising the camps' status as

is distributed by a fleet of 30 helicopters, including US Navy Sea Stallions and Dutch and The effort and organisation involved is staggering. Many countries are participating, but this is mainly America's show. And other military equipment is arriving too.

radar and communication systems. They have taken over air traffic control and logistics on the ground. US service personnel have worked unstintingly in cold, wet conditions, and Almost 500 US military per-sonnel are already on the base,

swift swoop into an improving situation. Nevertheless, they are delighting the Albanians, who believe their reward will be new roads, airports, communication systems, defence improvements and regional building Mash-style tents, tures being set in place smack stature. We have blown it twice

> As news spread of yesterday's incursions into Albanian, the Albanians were more sure than ever that their new partnership was a positive step forward, For Nato's part, it knows that if there were to be a ground war, here would be a good place to land troops. "We already have an ad-

before, allying ourselves with

Russia and then with China,"

said Major Vladimir Avdia, an

Albanian MiG-19 fighter pilot.

But now it's Nato. We are

sharing our facilities now and

later we will be given belp to im-

prove our infrastructure. It is

wonderful for morale."

HUNGARY

200 miles

vanced team conducting surveys for the arrival of the Apache helicopters" said Master Sergeant Michael Land, one of the USAF's spokesmen. "Certainly in the event of an escalatioo in activity, this airfield would become a very important centre militarily." It remains to be seen just

how hig the tiny, muddy airfield outside Tirana will grow over the next few months. In a few years, perhaps, it may even have its own bowling alley and a har serving Budweiser and

TIMETABLE: DAYS 20, 21

Monday 12 April 8pm: Air raid sirens sound in Belgrade. Nis, Kragujevac and Podgorica. 9pm: Yugoslav news agency Tanjug says third civilian has died in hospital after a Nato missile hit a car on the road between Pristina and Kosovo Polie earlier in the afternoon.

Tuesday 13 April 1.15-1.30am: Four big explosions heard in Pristina.

2.30am: Three huge explosions shake eastern Belgrade close to city centre. Tanjug says the military barracks Vasa Carapic in Belgrade's Banjica district were hit. 6.35am: Air raid alert in Belgrade ends. 8.45am: Nato planes hit a Yugoslav army barracks and fuel tanker trucks in Pristina. 9am: Madeleine Albright meets Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, to encourage Russia back into the search for peace in Kosovo.

Midday: Italian news agency reports Serbian forces have crossed the Yugoslav-Altianian border and occupied the northern Albanian village of Padesh. 1pm: Australian Foreign

Minister, Alexander Downer, says he has been informed by Yugoslav Foreign Ministry that Australian aid workers will be charged with spying. 3.30pm: Serb forces withdraw from Albanian territory after surrounding the northern village of Kamenica and exchanging fire with Albanian border guards for several hours. 3.30pm: Yugoslav Foreign Ministry denies allegations that Serb forces entered Albania. 3.40pm: Blair says Britaln will send extra 1,800 troops to help the humanitarian effort. 5pm: Nato says that Slobodan Milosevic now has 23 battallon-size units In Kosovo.

Serb incursion is a sharp taste Extra troops could of how war could engulf region spearhead invasion

THE YUGOSLAV army's incursion into Albania yesterday offers an alarming, albeit brief, taste of how the Kosovo war could quickly engulf neighbouring countries - and bring Serb ground forces into the direct proximity of an everincreasing number of Nato troops. But it was neither surprising nor, given the way this war is developing, especially

outrageous. The deeper fear, that the raid could presage a wider Serb invasion of Albania, for the moment seems unfounded. After three weeks of aerial pounding, the Serb army almost certainly has neither the fuel nor the supplies for such an exercise. To invade, moreover, would hring its tanks and artillery out into the open, exposing it at last to attack by frustrated Nato pilots. But episodes like that of yesterday are almost certain to recur.

Ever since its armed insurgency first became a factor in in yesterday's operation, which the crisis some 14 months ago,

ANALYSIS BY RUPERT CORNWELL

the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has enjoyed bases and logistic support across the rugged fronber of Northern Albania. Even a year ago, Serb forces were carrying out 'hot pursuit' cross-border raids to strike at these strongholds and disrupt supply lines.

For their part, the KLA was drawing on the rich source of light weapons constituted by stocks plundered when the central Alhanian state selfdestructed amid the chaos foilowing the colossal financial scandal of 1997, which cut the country's wealth in half.

But these weapons, ideal for the highly mobile guerrilla war waged by the KLA, were no match for the artillery and armour of the Yugoslav army. So it seems to have proved in the five days' fighting culminating saw the brief capture and par-

Albanian army proper bas stayed a few miles inland from the border, precisely to avoid "provocations" which could escalate into a full-scale confrontation with the vastly superior Serb forces. This time the scale of the incursion, and the threat to the country's territorial integrity plainly left

them no choice. But there is precious little that Albania on its own can do about it. Even before the virtual collapse of its state - and with it the armed forces - two years ago, the country was the poorest in Europe, with a per capita GDP of under \$4,000 (£2,500). Since then a fragile stability has been restored under the Prime Minister, Pandeli Majko. But refugees on its territory. But the banians in the central Balkans.

tial burning of a village half a tribal factors mean the gov-mile into Albania, and - for the erument's writ barely runs to first time - the involvement of the north of the country: and Albanian army units as well as even if it did, the army's border police. In the past, the strength is reckoned to be 10,000 at best, compared with the estimated 40,000-strong Yugoslav army and Serb security forces in and around Kosovo. If Tirana wants military protection, it will have to look to Nato for it - indeed that is precisely what is happening.

After last weekend's announcement that Albania's entire military infrastructure. such as it is, is being placed under the control of the ailiance, the country is in reality little more than a Nato protectorate. The official, and for the time being genuine, reason is only a Western takeover on this scale can tackle the hu-300,000 or more Kosovo

upshot is that Albania is in a state of undeclared war with Belgrade. What is more, President Milosevic knows that any Nato ground invasion of Kosovo would now come from Albania rather than Macedonia. For that reason, analysts reckon, he may be seeking to push the KLA units back from the border while he builds up ground defences against a Nato at-

But the Serb incursion poses a subtler threat. Throughout the Kosovo crisis, for all the ties of blood and culture, Alhania has tried to avoid stoking the fires of a "greater Albania." embracing all or most of Kosovo where Albanians until lately constituted 90 per cent of the population, and a slice of Western Macedonia, where ethnic Albanians are strongly represented. The very notion alarms all Slav populations of the region. More fighting could light manitarian crisis posed by the the fuse of a wider, generalised conflict between Slavs and AlMILITARY PRESENCE BY JOHN DAVISON

THE EXTRA 1.800 British troops being sent to Macedonia will double the number of frontline soldiers on the ground and hring the Army's presence there to full armoured hrigade strength. This is a potent, selfsupporting formation that could provide the perfect spearhead to an invasion of Kosovo. But it may not be fully in place for a month and would require huge hack-up from other nation's forces before becoming a cred-

ible threat. The deployment features a squadron of t4 Challenger 1 main hattle tanks from the King's Royal Hussars, two companies of armoured infantry with 40 Warrior fighting vehicles from the Irish Guards and the Green Howards, six AS-90 155mm self propelled guns from 4 Regiment Royal Artillery, with combat Royal Engineers and other support

units. These represent a second battle group from 4 Armoured Brigade (the "Black Rats") based in Osnabrück, Germany. They will join the hrigade's brigade will he able to train tactical headquarters, which is already in Macedonia, and its lead battle group, which is cur- in February. The lead battle rently deployed on the frontier group bas been in Macedonia with Kosovo.

Support engineers and an Irisb Guards reconnaissance group will leave by ship today from Emden in northern Germany, while the beavy armour will embark on Friday. The troops will be dispatched to join their equipment when it arrives at Thessaloniki in Greece about 10 days later.

Units deploying from Britain include 20 light reconnaissance vehicles from the Housebold Cavalry Regiment, based at Windsor and 10 DROPS logistic support vehicles from Catterick in North Yorkshire. In all,

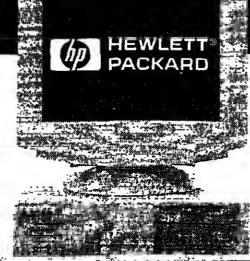
the new troops will hring the total deployment in Macedonia and Greece to 6.300.

Once fully assembled, the effectively together for the first time since it was placed on alert since the end of the first set of Rambouillet peace talks, and the second battle group has been on 72 hours' notice to move ever since.

Defence sources say it will be 20 to 30 days before the new troops and their equipment are fully operational. Given that this is supposed to be the backbone of a peace-keeping or protection force, the time scale gives a strong indication of how long both the Government and Nato commanders think that the air campaign will have to continue before any deal



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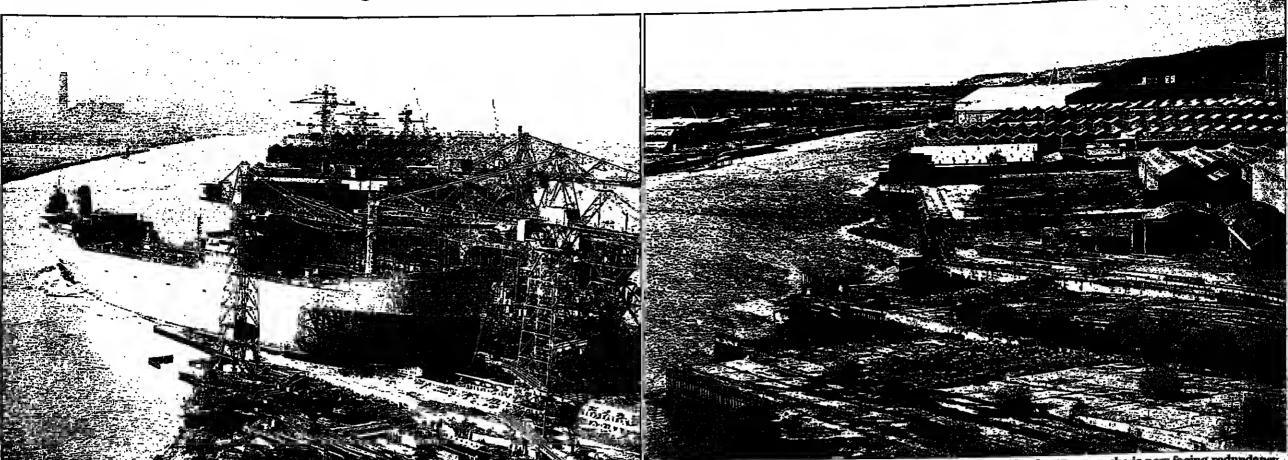
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Forty years on: The once-thriving heartland of British shipbuilding has sunk into a windswept symbol of a lost age



A tanker is launched from the Scotstoun Yard on the Clyde in 1960. Today the yard is empty. You don't build an economy stacking shelves at Tesco,' said John Brown, a Clyde welder for 17 years who is now facing redundancy.

Last of the great shipyards may die

WORKERS AT Britain's biggest merchant shipbuilding yard put their fate in the hands of politicians yesterday after the Norwegian firm Kvaerner announced it was abandoning the Upper Clyde, Altogether some \$,000 johs are at risk

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland Correspondent

glomerate's decision to sell off its loss-making shiphuilding and engineering operations. A chapter of history is stuttering to a close on the Clyde.

Kvaerner's Govan slipway on Friday, the 1,200 workforce will survey a sorry place.

Ninety-day redundancy notices have been issued. An icebreaker has still to be finished and the company has some steel fabricating work, When the Crystal Ocean, an

oil support vessel, goes down but it will not last beyond the hard and dangerous physical for Labour. Govan, the consummer. But the alternative of job and we don't live very long. supermarket jobs or working in call centres is viewed with disdain by the Clydesiders. "Shipbuilding is part of me." said John Brown, a welder for 17 years who followed his

But you don't huild an economy stacking shelves at Tesco or answering the phone."

Talk of outright closure of such a symbolic vard in the middle of the Scottish election father into the yard. "This is a campaign will be embarrassing

stituency where the shipyard lies, is the most volatile of the Giasgow electoral areas and a prime target for the Scottisb National Party. Govan's Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar, was an early caller at the yard yesterday.

The workers have vowed to keep the yard open, putting their trust in a taskforce set up by Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Industry minister, who started out as a 14-year-old apprentice in a neighbouring yard. The task-force is beaded by Sir Gavin Laird, the former leader of the shipbuilding and engineering workers whose cousin works at the yard. "He say's he's going to knock the shit out me if I don't get a decent solution," Sir Gavin confided.

Some 590m in taxpayer sub-sidy has gone into the yard since Kvaerner took it over in 1989. European yards struggle against over-capacity in the industry and competition from the Far East.

Lord Macdonald said the taskforce would explore every option to find a buyer. The yard's future is heavily depen-

ries for the Ministry of Defence. If the consortium of which Kvaerner is a part wins the £240m contract, the yard becomes a much more attractive huy. However, Lord Macdonald refused to make any commitment on awarding the work to Govan. It is tha only UK yard in the running but the Government is hamstrung by European competition rules.

The SNP called for an immediate placing of the MoD order to make the yard more attractive to buyers. Nicola Sturgeon, the party's candidate for Govan in the 6 May elections, said: "This is a spoke in the wheel of Labour's faltering good news machine."

Jamie Webster, the union convenor, said there was "no despondency whatsoever". So long as fabrication work can be found to tide the yard through to September, the workforce was hopeful of winning the ferries order. "We have had 90-day notices before this and come through," he said.

Kvaerner's other operation on the Clyde, the former John and Queen Elizabeth II were dent on a bid to build six fer- built, is much more likely to survive or not."

force of some 700, it has long. since switched to making turbines and has a bealthy order book. Also for sala are the company's bridge huilding operation in Darlington employing 600 people, and its Davy Roll operations in Gatesbead and Sheffield together employing 300 people. Under "review" are oil and gas operations in Aberdeen and London, with a total of 1,600 employees, and fabrication yards in Fife and Teesside which employ around 300 and

900 workers respectively. In Govan'a giant hangers and around the Crystal Ocean Alexander Nicol, a plater/fabricator, said the present crisis was the worst be had seen m 23 years at the yard. "The only market outside here is for short-term contract work. travelling around the country or abroad," he said.

Mr Brown, who acts as the welders' sbop steward, is determined it will not end that way. "We have to use the election to our advantage and put Brown yard, where the liners pressure on politicians," he Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth said. "At the end of the day, they will decide whether we

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Town with a heritage trail but no future

IF YOU had followed the tourist BY JACK O'SULLIVAN board's beritage trail in Govan yesterday, you would have witnessed the end of an era. At site number 13 on the tour stood idle cranes as workers at the UK's biggest merchant shipyard contemplated its likely closure.

Where once a visitor would have been greeted by the deafening noise of riveters and hlacksmiths, people were talking yesterday of never again hearing "the hammer's ding

dong".

This is where for more than a century, at the sight of a red flag above the yard, schools on this western edge of Glasgow have emptied to see the launch of another great vessel on the Clyde. The children will be there again on Friday to watch the Crystal Ocean go down a slipway, but that could be the

last big party.
Building ships has long been an inspiration for Govan people.
At the turn of the century they could claim that the majority of ships on the high seas were Clyde built. More than 100,000 people were employed in 50 yards. Now there are a handful and if the Kvaerner shipyard goes, taking 1,200 jobs, the industry is dead.

It has been dying for a long time. The docks are derelict in places, filled with debris. Walk down the Govan Road from the yard and you pass TC Mini Market, Bargain Cabin and The Lyceum Café, all boarded up. Even the cheque-casbing shops are closing for lack of custom. A man from the Cheap and Cheerful Charity Shop joked yesterday about the most recent business failure. "It's a bad day in Govan," he said, "when an off licence sbuts."

It was all very different before years of shipyard redundancies and natural wastage crippled the local economy. "Govan used to be great," recalled Marion Begley, 53, many of whose family have worked in the yard. "Everyone came to

Govan to do their shopping. All the shops were here. There were three or four picture halls. Now there are none."

Govan itself remains in its faded grandeur a tribute to local ambition, with large stone-built civil buildings. The memory of John Elder, who developed the shipyard in 1864 out of Fairfield Farm, survives in the once elegant Elder Park and Elder public library. Peo-

Jimmy Reid: Led the shipyard sit-ins

ple miss the beautiful Victorian cottages that were demolished to make way for the subway from Glasgow. At Govan's heart still stands the Pearce Institute, built in 1902 from shipbuilding profits, and, with its vast vaulted concert hall, a match in its day for the new futuristic Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre

standing just across the Clyde. A large notice outside the institute, now essentially a community centre, still expresses the outward-looking spirit of the shipyard. In his Nike sweatshipbuilding towns, describing itself as "for the strangers of the

Govan's fate is not only central to the history of shiphuilding, it also marks a political turnaround. It was the Clydeside shipyards, led by the overt Communists Jimmy Reid and

Jimmy Airlie, which found the weaknesses in Edward Heath's brand of Conservatism. When Heath refused to bail out the loss-making yard in 1972, they staged a sit-in. "Everyone: around bere gave a pound or two to keep us going," recalled David Hunter, 64, a retired labourer at the yard, yesterday. "We even got money from Russia. There was no overtime, but we were making better basic

wages than before." Eventually, the Government greed a rescue package. It is said that victory inspired the miners to take on the Government in 1973 and led to the Thatcherite takeover of the Tory party. Yet throughout nearly two decades of closures of steel mills at Ravenscraig and of a dozen Scottish pits, the shipyard at Govan stayed open. Even Michael Forsyth, the arch-Thatcherite, hattled on behalf of Govan to secure defence contracts.

The great irony is that the yard survived Thatcherism but may be closed by the powerlessness of Lord Macdonald of Tradeston, the Scottish Industry minister, himself a marine fitter on Clydeside in the 1950s

and took part in the early sit ins. It is tempting to think that this closure was always inevitable. You might think that younger people must have reconciled themselves to the fact that they would not follow their fathers and grandfathers into ship-

Yet chatting to young people around Govan yesterday, it was clear that many had still expected to work in the yard.

William Magee, 14, lives near shirt and trainers, he said: "My grandad worked there for 18 years. Everyone wanted to work there. If it stays open, I'm definitely going for an apprenticeship when I am 16." For him, the history of shipbuilding on Clydeside may be about to end

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Bill Bloke: just hanging out with the kids

WILLIAM HAGUE scored mid- By CLARE GARNER AND dling marks in ecocomics and ANDREW GRICE a commendation for his grasp of the Kosovo crisis yesterday, but the boys at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School awarded the visiting Tory leader nil points for personality.

The visit was Mr Hague's much-trumpeted début outing as a "regular guy" who likes "hanging out" with young people. Instead of attending the launch in London of the Tory party's campaign for next month's local elections, he spent the morning shooting the breeze with some 18-yearold lads. As relaunches go, it was a "softly, softly" affair. The Tory leader tip-toed gently into the school to avoid disturbing mock A-level examinations.

Pupils he met seemed underwhelmed. "He was trying too hard to relate to us and seemed a bit fake," said Chris Terry, 18. "He kept saying, 'Good luck with your A-levels, this is the hardest time in your life"."

The sixth-formers were not. however, in need of any reassurance. Chris, who is studying maths, economics and chemistry, was not afraid to take issue with Mr Hague. "He said there might be a lack of innovation in this country, but I suggested that there was a lack of investment which meant that people with good ideas went elsewhere," Chris said.

Mr Hague, he concluded,

bad avoided the difficult questions. "It just seemed that when he felt the question was going to be extended deeper, he changed to a different questioo... He didn't have anything special to make people listen to him." But he conceded that the Tory leader had been "good on the simpler questions".

Twenty-five prefects were invited to the half-hour audience with Mr Hague in the school library. They were given carte blanche to ask questions on any subject.

Wayne Sykens, 18, said that Mr Hague seemed "quite a nice bloke, really" but lacked charisma - reinforcing the findings of the Tories' opinion polls. "He doesn't captivate the room," he said. Richard Lyne,



Mr Hague meeting sixth-formers at Tunbridge Wells. One said: 'He was trying too hard to relate to us'

the head boy, asked to nervous believes in what he says." laughter from his schoolmates: Vesterday's visit marked the aughter from his schoolmates: "Do you believe that the Conservative Party was responsihte for destroying primary and secondary industry?" Later. the fuldy-duddy image. How-Richard gave Mr Hague the ever, the man unmasked turned benefit of the doubt: "He is a out to be rather shy: Conservvery intelligent politician. He ative Central Office barred the

beginning of a campaign designed to bring out the "real" William Hague from hebind

press from his visit, refusing to reveal the name of the school. Mr Hague's absence from

the Tories' London press conference dominated that event. Michael Ancram, the party chairman, who said Mr Hague was "leading from the front", was promptly asked why party

officials would not say precisely where he was leading from. Despite promises by Tory

spin-doctors that Mr Hague would throw off his "man-in-asuit" image for shirtsleeves, the school visit was deemed unsuitable for such informality. Mr Hague played it safe, sporting a blue suit and polka-

dot tie - "the sort of clothes you would expect a Conservative leader to wear", as the headmaster, Derek Barnard put it. Anything else would have been fatal. "If he had turned up in a T-shirt and baseball cap, we would have had a good snigger,"

The visit did generate some

genuine excitement yesterday over Mr Hague's chief of

and did not answer questions. "The boys would have loved to have met Sebastian Coe," Mr Barnard said. "I managed to get a few autographs but not as many as they would have liked." ■ Paddy Ashdown launched the Liberal Democrats' local election campaign by calling on the Tories to apologise for their "victimisation of local government" and telling Labour:

staff, Sebastian Coe. Unfortunately, the former Olympic gold medallist stayed in the shadows

Peter J Jordan

"Doing a little bit better than the Tories on public services simply isn't good enough." new



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IN BRIEF

MP's trial jury 'wrongly directed'

THE JURY that found the Labour MP Fiona Jones guilty of fraud was wrongly directed on what constituted an election expense, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday. Jones, 42, was convicted last month of making a false declaration of election costs. The appeal continues today.

Hospital blamed over boy's death

A FATHER told an inquest how his son died from a brain injury after being sent home from hospital. Usman All, five, was taken to Sheffield Children's Hospital on November 19 last year. Shokat Ali said his son "couldn't stand up, so I asked why he was being sent home but was told the X-ray was fine". The inquest continues today.

Search for riverbank gardener

POLICE MADE a large-scale search yesterday for a man whose burnt ride-on lawnmower was found near a riverbank. John Lewis' charred clothing was found oo Monday at the River Severn near Gloucester. Police said he may have run to the river after his clothes caught fire while gardening. It is feared the 64-year-old drowned.

'Time machine' tablets in the UK

oo the Contineot. Oligomeric Pro Anthocyanidolic (OPC) capsules contain a cocktail of chemicals, which the manufacturers say blitz the body with antioxidants to fight skin damage. A month's supply is sold for £25.

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Sinn Fein rejects April 1 accord

PRELIMINARY skirmishing in the resumed Northern Ireland political talks yesterday saw Sinn Fein at odds with Mn Mowlam at the outset of what is shaping up as a lengthy and gruelling negotiation.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland presented the Hillsborough Castle draft declaration of 1 April as "the best guess" of Tony Blair and the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, on how agreement could be reached on the arms decommissioning issue. But the Sinn Fein chairman. Mitchel McLaughlin, said his party was formally rejecting the draft declaration, which calls for some arms to he put "beyond use" as part of the procedure of setting up a new Northern Ireland government.

The Sinn Fein approach yesterday was to hark back to last year's Good Friday Agreement, which makes no such unamhiguous statement about decommissioning. The Ulster Unionist position is that the draft declaration represents a significant improvement on the Agreement.

Sinn Fein's president, Gerry Adams, declared: "What the declaration does is make the transfer of power to the institutions conditional upon the delivery of IRA weapons. Sinn Fein has been consistent privately and publicly in saying we cannot deliver on that precondition."

The Irish government signalled that it favoured negotiations continuing on the basis of the declaration. Liz O'Donnell, a junior foreign minister. said: "It was the two governments' best effort to point a way to where we might find an accommodation in terms of timing and sequencing for some act of disarmament, which would meet both sides' reBY DAVID MCKITTRICK Ireland Correspondent

tinn. It is not a final document. it is something we can work on." While the document had only draft status and is clearly open to amendment during the present talks, it seems most unlikely that either government. and certainly not the Ulster Unionists, will move away from the principle that some guns must be put heyond use, tt may take some linee, however, to establish whether the republican "no" means "no", or whether Sinn Fein and the IRA might be open to some move that could be presented as voluntary on the IRA's part.

During vesterday's series of round table and bilateral meetings, Mr Adams had a 45minute encounter with the Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble. The talks are to continue today, with the possibility that Mr Blair and Mr Ahern could join them later in the week if progress seems likely. Sinn Fein complained yesterday about the arrest of four men in South Armagh. apparently for questioning about the murder in January of the IRA critic Eamon Collins, who was found battered to death near his home in Newry. A representative described the arrests as "blatantly provocative harassment". ■ The four members of the IRA's Balcombe Street gang whose release from prison after 24 years was approved by the Irish government last week were finally freed last night, republican sources in Dublin said. Hugh Doherty, Eddie Butler, Harry Duggan and Martin O'Connell, who were given multiple life sentences for a British bombing campaign in the early 1970s, had returned to jail earlier this week, after parole, to



Bank chief resigns on day one

MICHAEL O'NEILL was lured to Britain by Barclays Bank with an offer he could not refuse: a three-year pay package worth £10m. Yesterday, he returned to California after resigning as chief executive on his first day in the job.

His departure, on medical grounds, plunged the bank into turmoil, leaving it rudderless for the second time in five

Mr O'Neill, 52, a former US marine with a glittering career in American banking, was hailed as Barclays' great hope when he was appointed in February, after the surprise resignation of his predecessor. Martin Taylor, last November,

But a hlack cloud already hung over Mr O'Neill when he BY KATHY MARKS AND ANDREW GARFIELD

flu, Last Tuesday, he relephoned Sir Peter Middleton, Barclays' acting chief executive. He teld him that he had been diagnosed with an arrhythmic heartbeat - a serious condition that is aggravated by stress - and advised not to take up the post.

Sir Peter persuaded Mr O'Neill to come to London, for an examination by the bank's own doctor, who confirmed the diagnosis. His resignation was rubber-stamped at an emergency board meeting on Monday and announced to a stunned City at 7.30am yesterday.

Mr O'Neill - poached from the Bank of America, where he was chief financial officer flew to Heathrow on Sunday. Six had already delayed his startdays earlier, he had been to see ing date by three weeks behis doctor in San Francisco cause of the flu. He had been to hecause of two black-outs he London several times since his nintment and had

house-hunting in Hampstead, where he has owned a home in the past. His wife was planning to join him on Thursday, followed by his two sons at the end

of the school year. Mr O'Nelll had also bought 25m of Barclays shares with his own money, a condition of receiving another £5m stake as part of his pay package.

But, having quit before he reached his desk that fabled package - the envy of the City - never materialised. Sir Peter said: "He has taken nothing neither in terms of salary or

It was not for the money, however, that Mr O'Neill took the Barclays job; he already has a personal fortune estimated at \$50m, and bad been relishing a challenge that would have crowned his career. Before flying bome yesterday, he said be was "deeply disappointed" to that he described as "the culmination of my whole career". Colleagues put it more strongly, he was "devastated", said one, his life had "completely flipped around".

Barclays said it was "disappointed", which was another understatement. Mr O'Neill was paraded as a great catch by the bank, after Mr Taylor resigned in response to a series of boardroom disputes, and Barclays is left again without a chief executive at a time of

great upheaval in the industry, A spokesman for the bank said events could not have been foreseen. "Mike had an intensive three-hour medical earlier this year which he passed with flying colours ... The flu brought out or aggravated something that could not have heen detected, and clearly it would not bave been right for him to take up this job."

More for your money

Your Chance TO QUESTION PETER MANDELSON

THIS WEEK Independent readers have an opportunity that has been denied every top press and television interviewer for the past four months: the chance to put questions to Peter Mandelson, What does he miss most about life at the top? How has he heen spending his time since he resigned? Why did he take out the home loan that precipitated his fall? Does he think public life now makes private life impossible? What are his favourite novel, film and painting? Since losing his cabinet joh, has he lost

In answering questions from our readers, Mr **Mandelson honours** a commitment he made before his resignation. His answers will be published in Saturday's Independent, in advance of the

friends?

Donald Macintyre. On Monday, The Independent begins serialisation of the biography, which is neither authorised nor official and which is a compelling

publication of a new

hook, Mandelson, hy



part in the making of New Labour

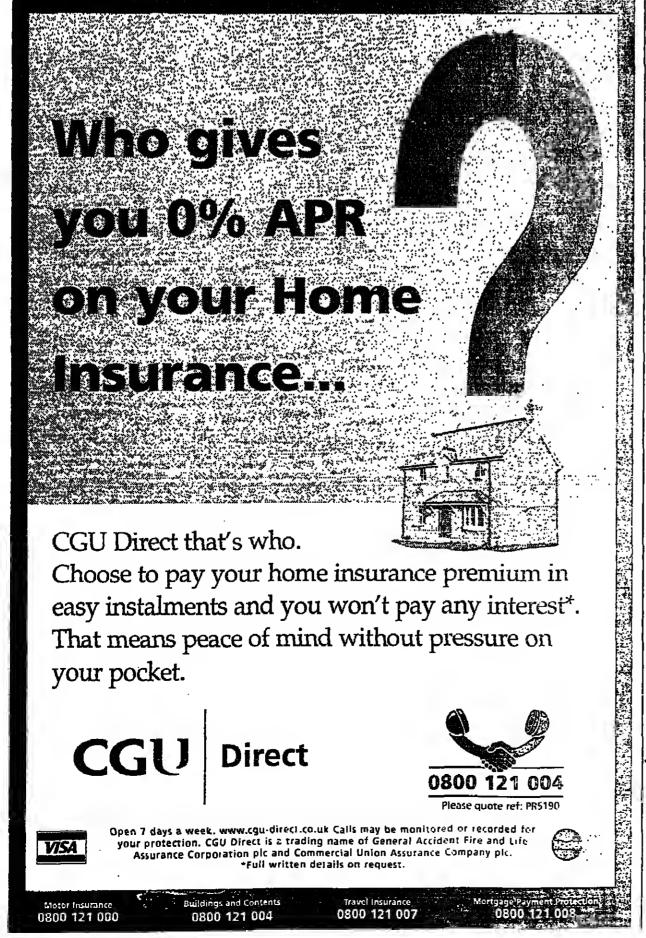
Readers who wish to take part in this unique opportunity to interview one of the most vivid and controversial figures in modern politics can pose their questions in one of four ways.

a) Simply call in your question by telephone on 0171-293 2844 between 9am and 5pm today and tomorrow.

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Brigadier Blair deals with the barrack-room lawyers

when Paddy Ashdown gets up and come up with an unexpected final anger, as though the questioner is nobody groans. Yesterday the Liberal Democrats' leader rose to the asking the Prime Minister to one of David Blunkett's remedial kind of respectful silence which has long been just a wistful memory for reliability of reports from Belgrade to go over all this again." his tone him. That moment of restraint was symptomatic of a House in muted and reflective mood.

It wasn't solemnity exactly, more a kind of battle-weariness - the elation of enlistment and resistance baving passed and MPs now settling in for the long slog. There was even something rather desultory about the interventions from Tony Benn and Tam Dalyell - indignation by numbers rather than the volatile

there nothing he won't stoop to?

The Prime Minister himself gave war effort and trimself. He still doesn't care much for contradiction, however admirably democratic it ter of exasperation, he answers one cry of "Rubbish!", but the

YOU CAN tell things are serious flare of last week - though Tam did queries more in sorrow than in flanking attack in a point of order. a particularly dim-witted pupil at reconsider some remarks about the summer schools. "Do I really have based reporters. First Tony Blair implies as he insists that President bombs our former wartime allies. Slobodan Milosevic's ethnic cleansthen he insults John Simpson. Is ing was already underway before a single Nato bomb was dropped.

The more troublesome pupils a reasonably convincing perfor- don't always take this quietly. When mance of command - both of the Mr Blair claimed that, as a result of Nato's action, the pace of ethnic cleansing had "significantly dimmay be, but apart from the odd flui- seni from the Tory back row and



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

Prime Minister wasn't to be inished" there were mutters of dis- diverted. "We now know that Belgrade was making detailed plans for ethnic cleansing as early as Feb-

wildly enthusiastic about it.

There was a sudden indignant largely drug-financed operation.

Mr Dalyell's remarks were racist and they were almost as indignant when Alan Clark rose to alert Mr ing that it was the praise rather

benchers hear-heared the ethical sary of Hitler's terror raids on Belcrescendos in his speech with a grade. He was "associating this quiet, dutiful murmur, prepared to house and this country with the susdo their homework but not to be tained bombardment of a brave and Christian people". Mr CLark's implicit compari-

moo when Mr Dalyell ventured a son between Mr Blair and the general slur against the "ethnic leader of the Third Reich provoked Albanians", noting that Germany's some dissent but nothing like as Federal Police had claimed that the much as that blanket approval for Kosovo Liberation Army was a the Serbs did. This was, I suppose, intellectually consistent: a prejudice MPs clearly took the view that in favour of an entire people is no less a prejudice than one against but it was difficult to escape the feel-

ruary", he said, though he didn't explain how we knew. Labour back-benchare benchare Blair reminded the House that the question of nationality was irrelevant anyway, that a contmon identity should pre-empt such simplistic

categorisations. "They are human beings at risk," be said simply of the Kosovo refugees. But if be hoped to bring Mr Clark on side, I suspect he was invoking the wrong species altogether. The only chance of doing that would be to gather information on the number of Albanian donkeys injured by reckless Serb militiamen sbooting at their riders.



Better than all the rest

More troops being sent to Macedonia

TONY BLAIR insisted yesterday that Nato's military action in Yugoslavia would continue until all its demands for a peace settlement were met by President Slobodan Milosevic. The Prime Minister announced "substantial reinforcements" of British troops in the region.

In his first Commons statement since the Easter recess, Mr Blair said a second Armoured Battle Group would be sent to support military personnel in Greece and Macedonia to boost the number of Peter Macdiarmid troops by about 1.800, to 6,300.

"They are being sent so that the UK can be in a position to play our proper role in the international effort to ensure the refugees are able to return to

BY SARAH SCHAEFER

Political Reporter

Kosovo in safety," be said. The Prime Minister stressed there could be no compromise in the commitment to defeat the "hideous policy" of ethnic cleansing. "This action will take time. Dictators like Milosevic do not bow down at the first setback to their plans. But as the weather improves, his forces will have fewer hiding places." He told MPs that every day the air attacks were causing further damage to "Milosevic's military

He added: "The conflict we now face in Kosovo is a test of our commitment and our resolve to ensure that the 21st century does not begin with continuing reminder in Eucentury now drawing to a

William Hague, the Conservative leader, expressed his party's continuing support. But he added: "You have said there was no question of committing ground troops to an invasion of Kosovo in advance of a political settlement. More recently you have stated you are keeping all options under review. Was the second of these statements intended in any way to modify the

But backbench concern erupted again when Tony Benn, the Labour MP for Chesterfield, said: "If the air war goes on for weeks and months and even longer, with all the death and destruction that it causes, what contribution do you think that will make to long-term peace and stability in

first?" Mr Blair said the objec-

tives would remain exactly the

same as Nato had set out.

the Balkans?" Martin Bell, the former BBC

rope of the worst aspects of the war correspondent and Independent MP for Tatton, said to Mr Blair: "Is it not true that circumstances on the ground can only be changed by boots on the ground? Do we not have a moral, as well as a military imperative, to go for a ground intervention, whether opposed or

unopposed?" Alice Mahon, the Labour MP for Halifax, questioned what was "humanitarian" about the action when Rosovo Albanians were driven out of their country and the Serbs were being bombed back to the Stone Age".

The Labour MP Clive Soley said his Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bust constituency contained more Serbians than most others. "Although they are desperately unhappy about the bombing they also know that there is a sense of shame among the Serb people for what is being done in their name. Ethnic cleansing is no part of Serbian culture."

new

Lords' threat to block Bill

THE GOVERNMENT braced it- AGE OF CONSENT self for a constitutional clash with the House of Lords last night as peers were expected to vote against the lowering of the age of consent for bomosexuals from 18 to 16.

Baroness Young, a Tory peer, took the unusual step of moving a wrecking amendment to the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill during its second reading in an attempt to have the legislation thrown out. But. ministers have made clear they will invoke the Parliament Act. which can overrule peers, and reintroduce the measure in the Queen's Speech.

The legislation, which includes safeguards for young people in care, was overwhelmingly backed in the Commons in a free vote earlier this year But Lady Young said she had all-party support for her amendment. She added she opposed the

Bill partly because it "makes legal for the first time huggery for both boys and girls. "I can only suppose this is a

rather curious equal opportunity," she said. The law "influBY SARAH SCHAEFER

ences behaviour" and lowering the age of consent would "send out the wrong signal to young people". Opening the debate, Lord

Williams of Mostyn, a Home Office minister, urged peers to back the measure to ensure equality before the criminal law" for homosexuals. "We believe this is a funda-

mental principle of equality... we are not opening the floodgates of social change for further reductions in the age of

The Liberal Democrat Earl Russell told Lady Young: "I do not believe there are going to be any fewer homosexual acts if you are successful."

The Bistop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Rev James Thompson, said the current law endorsed a judgemental and sometimes violent attitude towards homosexuality and made gays "less safe. They have nowhere to go to find out bow they could sort their lives

THE HOUSE



Council limits

Council budgets in England will not be limited by the Government this year after the ending of universal capping, the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, said. But the Government would monitor the finances of 12 local authorities that set the largest budgets for 1999-2000.

Attack on care

Government plans to set up primary care trusts came under attack by the Tories. Ann Widdecombe, the shadow health secretary, said: "Not a single thing in this [Health] Bill is going to address the problems of the totally dispossessed."

QUESTIONS AND **ANSWERS**

Clegg cost £1m

THE COST to the Ministry of Defence of defending paratrooper Lee Clegg, who was cleared of murdering a Belfast teenager earlier this year. was over £1m, the Armed Forces minister, Doug Henderson, disclosed That did not include the cost of the first trial which was met by the Northern Ireland Office.

Today's agenda

Commons: Backbench debates on BBC coverage of Parliament: preservation of wildlife; access for the disabled to railway stations in Lewisham; housing projections for Gloucestershire; human rights in Colombia. International development questions. PM's Questions. Access to Justice Bill, second reading. Short debate on investigations of murders of Britons in Bahamas. Lords: Debates on tax and spending levels and

action against Armenian

people by Turkey in 1915.

Foreign Office checks MI6 link

MINISTERS PROMISED action to curb the activities of mercenaries last night in response to the arms to Sierra Leone affair.

Robin Cook is also overhauling his department's links with MI6 amid criticism that intelligence reports on shipments of arms by British mercenaries were not seen by officials. But the official response to a critical report by the Foreign Affairs Committee rejected suggestions that Mr Cook's most senior

official had failed in his duties. Ministers will now hope to put the affair behind them. It deepened after the mercenary company Sandline International broke an arms embargo on Sierra Leone but escaped prosecution by claiming officials were aware of its activities. A further row broke out after a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ernie Ross, was forced to resign after admitting leaking a draft of

the report to Mr Cook. The Foreign Secretary had said that failings by his department had already been addressed after an official report into the débacle was published

MERCENARIES By FRAN ABRAMS Westminster Correspondent

last July. He criticised the MPs for deciding to go ahead with their own, subsequent inquiry. But although last night's re-

sponse to the MPs' report defended officials and ministers, it also made several concessions. It accepted calls for a consultative Green Paper on the activities of mercenaries and announced that arrangements for liaison with intelligence agencies were being modernised.

It added that allowing Britain's High Commissioner, Peter Penfold, to go into exile in Guinea with the Sierra Leone government, when Britain had no permanent diplomatic post there, may have been foolish.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Donald Anderson, said be was encouraged by the progress that had been made.

But the Conservatives attacked the Government for its refusal to admit a string of failings in the Foreign Office.

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Boys 'intimidate' girls into dropping science

SINGLE-SEX science classes By JUDITH JUDD from the age of 11 onwards and flashy cars for physics teachers would stop girls giving up physics, an academic said yesterday. Girls are intimidated by boys and their confidence in their scientific ability increases if they are taught separately, according to Averil Macdonald. an educational consultant and part-time lecturer at the Uni-

versity of Reading.

Ms Macdonald told the Institute of Physics Congress at the University of Salford that research showed girls from single sex schools did better in science than those at mixed schools and were more likely to carry on with science to Alevel and at university.

Girls are now outperforming boys in science and technology at GCSE but only one in five Alevel physics student is a girl and boys account for an even higher proportion of A-level

Education Editor

entries than they did 10 years ago. Research published four years ago by the University of Bristol's department of education found that about half of girls who had been taught GCSE ohysics in all-girl classes went on to take it at Alevel, compared with only a

handful in previous years. Eighty-two per cent in the single-sex classes achieved A to C grades, compared with a national average of 40 per cent.

Ms Macdonald, a former physics teacher, said: "Boys are more confident and vociferous than girls in a mixed environment and they tend to take over. Teachers will say that we need girls in mixed classes because they are a civilising influence. Does that mean we are prepared to sacrifice girls so that boys do

HOW THE SENES COMPARE

Physics Entries 23.119 6.553 Pass rate 88.7% 91% Chemistry Entries 20,132 16,971 Pass rate 88.4% 90%

Biology 19.822 29.070 i Entries Pass rate 85.9% 88.4% Source: 1998 A-level exam statistics for condidates aged between 16 and 18

their best?" Ms Macdonald said the problem of persuading girls to do physics had become acute now that nearly all British schools were co-

educational. "Girls do very well at GCSE. They simply choose not to do

feel comfortable. Girls like to feel they are approved of and as soon as they feel slightly intimidated by boys they back off. Boys are nappy about taking risks and don't mind being wrong. They like to compete. Girls don't like being wrong, so

they won't compete." Girls needed to be reassured that they could do physics well, she added. At present, most pupils study "double award science", which includes physics, chemistry and biology.

Pupils do not know their mark for each individual subject, so girls tend to assume that their biology result has pulled their total mark up. Ms Macdonald argued that each of the three sciences should be graded separately. She added that all physics teachers should be given an expensive car to show that physics was it at A-level because they don't a rewarding prestigious career.

Nurses to replace GPs in new NHS

THE BIGGEST transformation By JEREMY LAURANCE of the NHS in its 50-year history, with nurses replacing GPs as the "gatekeepers" to care, was heralded by the Prime

Minister yesterday. The changes could spell the end of the family doctor providing for all the patient's needs. Instead, patients would receive personalised care based on their medical history from a variety of health professionals, according to their needs.

The change would be a natural development of Primary Care Groups (PCGs) - clusters of GP practices serving populations of about 100,000 - which replaced the GP fundholding scheme on 1 April. PCGs have already been compared to Health Maintenance Organisations in the US, which have responsibility for all the health needs of the populations they

As forecast in The Independent two months ago, the first steps towards realising this vi-sion were spelt out by Mr Blair yesterday in a speech in Birmingham to the first conference for PCGs, attended by 1,000 GPs, nurses and managers. He announced a network of 20 walk-in "health shops", to be led by nurses, where patients would be able to get instant care for minor ailments and which would be open from 7am to 10pm on weekdays. Mr Blair said: "The NHS has to keep up with developments in other

areas of people's lives."
But the biggest change is to the NHS Direct 24-hour helpline, which is rapidly being developed as a new first point of contact for patients seeking medical care. The nurse-run advice line is to be given a bigger role in three pilot areas - the North-east, Nottinghamshire and west London - where it will hours. Other services to be even privatised."

Health Editor

tested include nurses making calls to check on patients. Ad-

ecutive of the NHS Confederation, welcomed Mr Blair's "inspirational vision" but

staffed hospitals and goodquality cancer treatment won't be able to keep up."

the end of the family doctor."

placed to help people with com-mon problems," she said.

But the British Medical Association said it was dismayed by the plans. Simon Fradd. deputy chairman of the GPs' committee, said the future of general practice was threatened. "GPs will no longer be coordinating everything. If you take over large chunks of the GPs' work it undermines the core service they provide and breaks the doctor-patient relationship. General practice could field all calls to GPs out of be fragmented, destabilised and

vice will also be provided over the Internet with access points in post offices, libraries and accident and emergency units. Stephen Thornton, chief ex-

warned it would lead to an enormous rise in public expectations. "A telephone banking style front-end to the NHS ... requires nothing short of a complete transformation. My concern is that we may get an exciting front-end to the service and the core services - property

Mr Thornton said the plans spelt a "radical transformation of general practice" in hich the first point of contact for patients would be a professional more like a nurse than a doctor. "It could perhaps spell

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said nurses were being given extra authority to help patients to treat themselves. "Nurses are good listeners and may be better

Caring prison staff 'mocked'

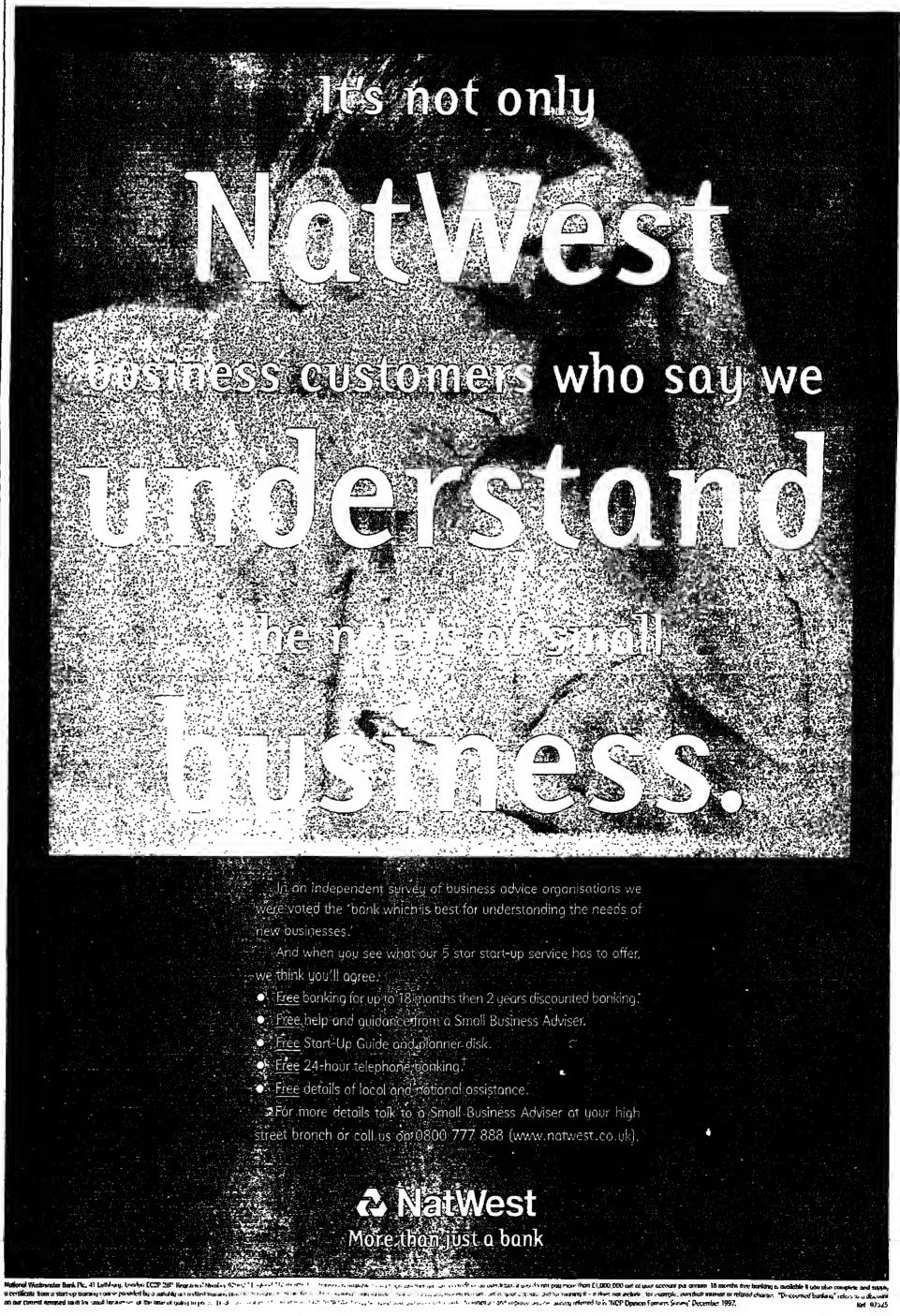
YOUNG PRISON officers who bry BY IAN BURRELL to show a caring attitude Home Affairs Correspondent towards prisoners are the subject of "domination and intimidation" by cynical older chiefs to crack down on the colleagues, the Chief Inspector Prison Officers' Association, of Prisons said yesterday.

port, Sir David Ramsbotham of the Prison Service, to chalsaid the Prison Service was bedevilled by the premise that prisoners were "subordinates".

New prison officers fired with enthusiasm for working positively with inmates are quickly put in their plane by seafer notleagues, who exert "domination and intimidation, a pernicious way of influencing colleagues",

as a challenge to the prison Sir David called on Martin Publishing his annual re- Narey, the new director-general lenge the entrenched staff attitude at many prisons.

He said: "I suggest to Mr Narey that no factor will better enable him to respond to the Home Secretary's objectives than a determined and sustained attack on the old culture, wherever it manifests itself. It is inward looking, it is a blame culture, and it does the name of the Prison Service no good."



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though the airbag of her Rover

400 stopped her hitting the

windscreen or the steering

wheel, she still suffered a frac-

the first time the role of an first motorist to be killed by the airbag has been questioned in connection with a death in the UK, although there have been many such cases in the Unit-

Dr Kenneth Mason, of Whistoo Hospital accident and emergency department, where by the blow to her head. Ms Reichardt was taken after the crash, told the inquest that it was the first case of its kind tured skull. It is thought to be he had seen in 17 years of

case where I suspected it might be an air-bag," he said. "I considered the possibility that the injury was caused by being thrown hack hy the airbag against the head restraint." He told the jury that Ms Reichardt's only lifethreatening injury was caused

Ernest Gradwell, a consultant pathologist at the hospital. who did a post-mortem examination, said: "Miss Reichardt

sustained a fracture to the crash, as he slowed into an apbase of her skull which is the first I have ever seen. This type of fracture is very uncommon ... there appeared to be no contact with the car windscreen or steering wheel?

He said she had come into conlact with a force similar to someone jumping off the top of

Paul Leyland, the driver of an Opel Ascona, which was in collision with Ms Reichardt's car, said that just before the

proaching bend, his car juddered and continued in a straight line. "The car pulled to the left and I could not control it as I went straight on. I collided with another car. I tried

to get out of the way hut I couldn't." he said. Mr Leyland, 22, who had just had suspension work carried out on the vehicle, said he walked away from his 13-yearold car, which had no airbag. with just a cut lip.

The inquest at St Helens town Hall was told that he was fined £250 last year for driving without due care and attention.

PC Harry Jones, an off-duty officer who arrived at the scene of the accident, said the front of the car was crushed down to the front of Ms Reichardt's legs, but he did not believe that had caused her fatal injuries. He added that she had been wearing a seatbelt and was neither too close nor too far from the steering wheel.

hicle examiner with Merseyside Police, thought the injuries were caused by the airbag rather than by the car's bulkhead. He said: "It would appear had the airbag not been employed the outcome of the accident could have been totally

different." PC Walsh said he found nothing wrong with either vehicle that would have caused the accident

In a crash, an airbag opens

PC Harry Walsh, senior ve- at up to 200mph, with the force of a heavyweight boxer's punch. The sound of it inflating is twice as loud as a rifle shot-Only two airbag injuries have been reported in Britain

In both case the drivers were burnt, probably by friction. Experts in the United States believe that shorter people sitting closer to the dashboard are more at risk, and in Canada the bags are being designed to in-

The inquest continues today.

flate more slowly.



Rose Theatre revived after 393 years

A TEN-YEAR campaign to save By DAVID LISTER the remnants of the theatre where Shakespeare and Marlowe staged their plays culmioated in a partial victory yesterday when the Rose

Theatre reopeoed. However, despite the presence of the Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith, and the playwright Sir Tom Stoppard, the early wishes of the late Lord Olivier and Dame Peggy Ashcroft that it reopen as a theatre have not been fulfilled. Instead, it will be an exhibition centre - a victory of sorts certainly, as developers **Arts News Editor**

ooce wanted to cover the whole site permanently with offices. The foundations of the inti-

mate open-air theatre, discovered during huilding work in 1988, are still shrouded in a foot of concrete, sand and water, to preserve them. A decade ago, protesters in-

cluding Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen, Lord Olivier and Dame Peggy joined local residents to picket the site and save it from the bulldozers. A film grant from the gov-



ernment of the time compensated developers for changing their plans so they could suspend their 13-storey block on three massive girders over the irreplaceable remnants of

Philip Henslowe's theatre. There are eventual plans to

redesign the oew hullding to include a special hasement display space for the theatre remains and It is hoped archaeological advances will enable full excavation in future.

Visitors will be able to see the exhibition, incorporating a

sound and light show narrated hy Sir Ian telling the site's history. The campaign patrons Janet Suzman and Sir Tom Stoppard were there to see the opening. Sir Tom's Oscarwinning screenplay Shakespeare In Love centres on the theatre. He said: "The exhibi- a generation. tion is very informative and has

thing to do despite the cost, the said. "We put oo a show and a redevelopment). Nobody suf- and Henry VI Part One were fered from it. The office building is bere anyway."

Ironically, the office building had stood empty for three years after completion, until a government department moved in, and it is only intended to last

The lifespan of the Rose was Preserving the remains of it was overshadowed by larger. the Rose had been the right newer rivals such as the Globe, oow reconstructed near by.

It was Christopher Marlot of us came here to persuade lowe's theatre, but the young the government to stop it [the Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus

coloured glasses."

Hughes, said: "This is the holy of holies of English theatre." From today, visitors can see the exhibition, with admission

£3 for adults, £2.50 for conces-

sions and £2 for children.

staged there before he formed

who played Henslowe in the

film, sent a message saying: "I

applaud this venture. If I was

able to stand in front of you and

it today, I'd be wearing rose-

Geoffrey Rush, the actor

his own company.

Irvine 'biased against women'

BY ROBERT VERKAIK

THE LORD Chancellor faces further "jobs-for-the-boys" allegations today as a second claim of sex discrimination comes before an industrial tribunal

Last month Lord Irvine of Lairg was found guilty of indirect sex discrimination by appointing a senior City solicitor and personal frieod, Garry Hart, as his special adviser.

Josephine Hayes, a barrister, claims procedures for the allocation of work to barristers representing the Government in civil cases discriminate against women. Her claim stems from a decision to anpoint Philip Sales, a junior barrister and former working colleague of the Lord Chancellor, to the most senior position on the Government's list of retained barristers, Of 116 outside barristers on the list, only 13 are women.

Ms Hayes said she was not given the chance to apply because the appointment was made on the basis of "secret soundings" between the Lord Chancellor, the Solicitor General at the time, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, and five senior members of the judiciary. Today Ms Hayes will ask the tribunal to order the Lord Chancellor. the Attorney General, John Morris QC, and the senior judges to disclose the content of the "soundings

If the tribunal rules against Ms Hayes's application, her solicitor, Sara Leslie, said she would apply for witness orders to force Lord Irvine to attend the tribunal to give evidence.

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Railtrack is 'worse than **British Rail'**

THE NATIONAL rail octwork is BY PHILIP THORNTON in a worse condition than at privatisation, according to a report yesterday that criticised Railtrack's investment record.

The report, commissioned by the rail regulator, said Railtrack had failed to tackle train delays, shabby stations and ageing sig-nalling. It also found Railtrack's maintenance spending was "below expectations" and warned that a backlog of work was emerging.

Prime Minister, said: "The report paints a sorry picture of its performance as stewards of the country's railway network."

He said he was considering paying the £L5bb annual subsidy direct to Railtrack, giving the Government a big voice in the company's strategy, as The Independent reported on Monday.

Shares in Railtrack fell yesterday with the publication of the report by consultants Booz Allen, who were commissioned last year by the outgoing rail regulator to measure Railtrack's performance since 1995. The new rail regulator, Tom Winson will use their findings to set the charges that train operators must pay to use Railtrack's network after 2001. Railtrack has already treen told to deliver for tougher regulation.

Transport Correspondent

greater improvements or face a cap on its profits. Booz Allen said: "It is likely

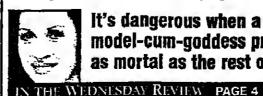
that there has been a decline in the underlying quality of the network assets as a whole. Generally, Railtrack's physical activity in renewing assets has beeo below expectations."

The report said Railtrack had funnelled money to areas John Prescott, the Deputy where it gained the most fi-rime Minister, said: "The reof long-term projects to improve journeys for passengers. Railtrack said the report had

been written "with the benefit of hindsight" and before its £27bn, 10-year investment plan was unveiled last month. It said it should be put in the context of a 25 per cent growth in passenger demand and a planned tripling of rail investment. Gerald Corbett, the chief executive of Railtrack, said: "The report highlights there is still much to do. We face huge challenges and Railtrack is dedicated to getting

it right and doing better." Save Our Railways, the pressure group, said the report left Railtrack's reputation "in tatters" and highlighted the need

YVONNE ROBERTS



It's dangerous when a role model-cum-goddess proves as mortal as the rest of us

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THE INDEPENDENT Hedrenday 14 April 1930

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THE INDEPENDENT

Iriver US offers armed support to Kurds

full military protection against the Iraqi Kurds if they allow the Iraqi opposition to base itself in the area they control.

American and British aircraft currently patrol north of Iraq's 36th parallel, but the US is considering a radical expansion of its role. hy giving a full military guarantee to the whole of Iraqi Kurdistan. The area, inhabited by three

million Kurds, has been nutside President Saddam's control since 1991, hut it remains vulnerable to attack.

Hoshyar Zibəri, a leader of

President Saddam Hussein to Party (KDP), which controls western Kurdistan, said; "We would need to have a no-fly, nodrive zone protecting our cities from Iraqi government retaliation if we were to co-operate with the Iraqi opposition." US officials were seriously considering the matter, he said.

The US wants to make the Iraqi opposition a serious events in Iraq said that the threat to the tragi leader. It can do so only by persuading the leaders of the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. which controls eastern Kurdistan, 10 allow the Iraqi oppothe Kurdistan Democratic sition to be based in areas that

they will only allow this - and break with their current liveand-let-live policy towards Baghdad - if the US promises tu defend them.

All sides are conscious of similarities with Nato's efforts to protect the Kosovars from Serbia by the massive use of air power. Ghassan Attiyah, editor of Iraqi File, an analysis of credibility of US goarantees depended on the autcome of the Kusovo crisis: "If Nato succeeds in Kosovn it will he good for us; otherwise we will have to think again."

Mr Attiyah said the Iraqi



opposition could act effectiveagainst President Saddam only if it had hases in Iraq from which to operate. He added that

tight control of the rest of the lective leadership. country.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC), the umbrella organisation of the opposition, had several thousand men in Kurdistan until 1996, when they were forced to flee after Iraqi tanks coprured Arbil, the Kurdish capital Several hundred INC members were killed.

The new American policy began to emerge at a meeting of the INC, held under US auspices, at Windsor, Berkshire. last week. It was held to reconstitute the divided organisation the one possible location of and remove Ahmad Chalabi.

these bases was Kurdistan, be- its long-time leader, from office. State Department have come cause President Saddam had He has been replaced by a col-

> The meeting was also important as it brought together Kurdish leaders and Iraqi opponents of the Baghdad government

Mr Zibari said, however, that the Kurds would participate in the INC only if they had "concrete promises of security from the US". The Kurdish parties have some 20,000 to 30,000 fulltime troops, but they are light infantry. They would need heavier arms and enhanced American air protection to withstand

Iraqi armoured divisions. The White House and the US

under intense pressure from Congress to give teeth to the Iraqi opposition. Last year Congress passed the Iraq Liberation Act, under which financial aid and military equipment would go to the INC and other opponents of Presideot Saddam. Madeleine Albright, the

help the Kurds. US officials at the meeting at Windsor said that they were now considering going further. This would involve extending the no-fly zone to the whole of Kurdistan. Currently it does not cover the large Kurdish city of

US Secretary of State, deep-

ened the US commitment to

Sulaimaniyah, Most important, it would also he turned into a no-drive zone. This would entail the US huilding up a capahility to stop an Iraqi tank attack.

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was aware of the proposals, hut that there were practical difficulties involved. This referred to the need to obtain the co-operation of Turkey to base more American and British aircraft at airfields in eastern Turkey.

Without an enhanced military guarantee, the Kurds will not break with Baghdad and the Iraqi opposition wili remain an impotent force.

biased against Sikhs mark women 300 years as warrior sect

INDIA'S MOST easily recognised community, the Sikhs, in Delhi formed a sea of turbans yesterday at the northern Indian town of Anandpur Sahib, which means "town of hliss", to mark the 300th anniversary of a defining moment in the history of

their religion. Sikhs are, perhaps, the most enterprising and mobile community from the sub-continent. "Sikhs and potatoes are found all over the world," goes a popular gibe. And beyond the world - when Neil Armstrong took his "small step for man" on the moon, Indians joke, he was surprised to hump into a family of Sikhs strolling about. "We came here right after Parti-

But the Sikh religion, an attempt to distil the hest of both Hinduism and Islam, sprang from the soil of Punjab, near the present India-Pakistan border. and it is to this small town in Punjab that 2 million pilgrims have come to take part in the 300th anniversary celebrations of Khalsa (meaning "the Pure"), At Anandpur Sahib on 13 April 1699, the 10th and last Sikh guru, Gobind Singh, converted Sikhs from a docile redous order into a body of fighters, sworn to challenge

both the Mogul conquerors and Hinduism's caste system. The recent history of the Sikhs has been ferocious. A guerrilla movement to create an independent Sikh homeland, Kalistan, led by a charismatic country preacher called Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, split the Sikhs into factions in the 1970s. Sikhism is closely related to Hinduism, from which many of its ideas derive, and it is always at risk of heing consumed by its parent - a "boa

constrictor" as one British

scholar put it. The firehrand leader Bhindranwale hit on the perfect way to prevent absorption: make the two communities loathe and fear one another.

The hostilities led to the shelling of Sikhism's Holy of Holies, the Golden Temple in Amritsar (Bhindranwale died in the onslaught), on the orders of prime minister Indira Gandhi on 3 June 1984: in Mrs Gandhi's assassination by her Sikh bodyguards four months later; and in a subsequent pogrom of Sikhs in Delhi and elsewhere, in which the violence burnt itself out.

This all-too-recent history has not been forgotten, and extremist Sikhs still haunt the headlines of Indian newspapers. At Anandpur Sahib, the Sikhs' temporal leader and his fanatical spiritual counterpart held rival celebrations. But this huoyant and adaptable community has devoted the past 15 years to finding new ways to express their identity - mostly by getting rich. Punjab has the richest farm-

land in India, and is the seat of India's Green Revolution, Despite being as recognisable as Hassidic Jews, Sikhs are more versatile (and less prudish and inhibited) than most of their countrymen. Famous modern Sikhs include India's most reforming finance minister, Manmohan Singh; its grandest and most scandalous man of letters. Khushwant Singh; and its most successful (and irritating) pop star, Daler Mehndi, who is currently touring the US.

The energy that forced the British to acknowledge Sikhs as India's doughtiest warriors is finding more creative outlets.



Sikh warriors performing a martial arts display in Punjab yesterday at the 'Khalsa' celebrations

Prodi calls for greater EU unity

Commission's incoming presideot, called for a new phase of political and economic integration in Europe yesterday, and promised a stronger EU would emerge from the crisis that toppled Jacques Santer.

Mr Prodi, whose backers include Tony Blair, promised thorough reform and an end to ings of the EU institutions. EU corruption, but left no doubt about his ambitious visions for European unity.

In a speech that will alarm Eurosceptics, Mr Prodi called for more majority voting in the EU, greater powers for the Europeau Parliament and a "single economy" with "a single political unity".

Mr Prodi was nominated unanimously by Europe's leaders last month to succeed Mr. Santer, but his appointment still needs to be ratified by the EU assembly in Strasbourg.

In a politically astute move Mr Prodi defused his main dispute with many MEPs by announcing he would not stand in June's elections to the European Parliament. Last week the former Italian prime minister had angered many parliamentarians by failing to rule out his for his newly formed Italian centre left party, the Democrats. That would have put him in direct competition with Italian political opponents and their affiliated groupings in the Parliament.

Addressing MEPs in Strasbourg, Mr Prodi won support with a strong pledge that he "will not tolerate corruption", and that he and his Commission will drive through "a great age of reform and change. We are not here to conserve, hut to reform," he added.

That was enough to win the tacit approval of the two biggest

ROMANO PRODI, the European By STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

> groups in the Parliament, the socialists and the centre-right Christian Democrats.

Both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers should be included in a thorough review of the worksaid Mr Prodi. There would be a review of the Commission's day-to-day working, and its dis-tribution of portfolios to the 20 Commissioners.

But Mr Prodi also called for "transparent" relations, not only with Parliament, but with the Council of Ministers, the member state representatives whose meetings are held in private.

Although Mr Prodi's speech came the day after a meeting with Mr Blair in London, much of his language will alarm Downing Street. In particular Mr Prodi argued: "The single market was the theme of the 1980s. The single currency was the theme of the 1990s. We now face the difficult task of moving towards a single economy, a single political unity."

One British source said Whitehall would want to know more details of what was being proposed on the economic front and in which areas greater majority voting is proposed to operate. A complicated timetable now

exists under which Mr Prodi is due to he ratified in May by the existing European Parliament. Between then and July he will discuss with member states the composition of the new Commission, which will have to be approved by the parliament elected in June. Those hearings will probably take place in late August or early September.

Fatchett censored Hong Kong report | Riot police on alert at Anwar trial

DEREK FATCHETT, the minis- By STEPHEN VINES ter responsible for Hong Kong, said vesterday that he had censored a report to parliament on the former British colony, pre-

pared by his own civil servants. Earlier reports, prepared at six-month intervals, detailed progress on each area of the Sino-British agreement after the handover of Hong Kong in fore the most recent report

in Hong Kong

July 1997, Mr Fatchett, keen to avoid what be called "second guessing" politicians in Hong Kong, toned down the contents of the latest report to "make it less of a language which says we are watching you". There-

beginning of the year is shortless detailed and, according to Mr Fatchett, "more readable by politicians and the people of

Asked whether he had intervened hecause Britain's main concern these days was China rather than Hong Kong. he said: "I totally refute that

submitted to parliament at the suggestion. We welcome evi | MALAYSIA'S FORMER deputy BY SARAH STRICKLAND dence that China remains committed to giving Hong Kong the high degree of autonomy promised in the Joint Declaration."

It had been thought the Government would cease issuing the Hong Kong reports to Parliament. However, they will still be given but not necessarily as frequently, he added

The Imphrace Act 1986 HOLLANDS ICH BING HMILLD

prime minister was bracing himself last night for a probable prison sentence while riot police hegan surrounding the square opposite the courthouse

The courtroom drama that has kept Malaysians glued to their televisions and newspapers for the past six months

with trucks and water cannon.

in Kuala Lumpur

reaches its climax today with the judge's verdict on Anwar thrahim, the 51-year-old challenger to the Prime Minister,

allegations of sodomy and adul-

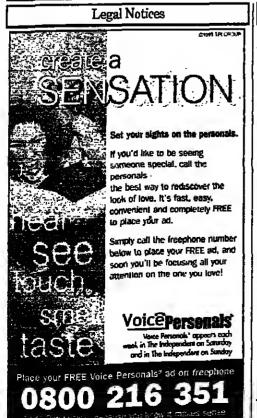
Mahathir Mohamed. Mr Anwar is accused of using his position to cover up

the victim of a political conspiracy. It is widely assumed that he will receive a prison sentence of at least two to four years, quashing any immediate plans to re-enter the political ring. Each of the four charges he faces carries a maximum penalty of 14 years and a £3,500

tery. He has always denied the fine hut it only needs a sentence charges and claims that he is of one year or a fine of £2,000 to disqualify Anwar from serving in parliament for the next five years.

Despite the prospect of a hleak future and a thwarted political career. Anwar was in "extremely high spirits, better than ever" yesterday, according to one of his lawyers.

CLASSIFIED



The insolvency Act 1984 KEASH SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL (UK) LIMITED NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Avesing of Creditor, of the above-named Company will be held at Smith & Williamson, No. 1 Ruding House Street, Lundon WIA AS on 14th April 1999 & 1000 am, for the purposes mentioned in

stang runns steet, future tests and an information of the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the stall Art. A list of the names and arbitesses of the Company's ordinary will be available for inspection line of charge at the offices of Smith A Williamson, No. 1 Railing House Street, fundant WIA 3AS between 10.00 am and 400 pm on of the two business days pince to the investing of cortic as freedoms and influest attending in passibility of the control of the co

specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be termineralled may Dated 6th April 1991 By Order of the Buard P I Yeldon, Lapadator

Legal Notices The insolvency Act 1984 IT SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS (In Liquidation)

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Aylesbury County Court No 186 of 1999 RE: CHARLES ANTHONY Chat Lines (In Bankrupicy) in accordance with Rule 6 124 of the insolution; Rules 1920 notice at hereby given that Richard William James Long of Richard Long & Co., Cecil House. 52 St. Analese: Street, Heritord. Hermanbare 5G74 114 was appointed Inside of the string of the above narred distance on 17th March 1990.

Dated this, 7th day of April 1990 R W J LONG, Inside 0894 88 66 36 To advertise in

GAYXCHANGE 0894 88 88 36 this section please call the Unusual Gifts Classified Team A NEWSPAPER he that we do on date 1642 from monthly and date fold brind in the formula ber when fold diffit 6/15/6/1 Un CALL FREE 0500 STOCKE 0171 293 2347.

river. Police said there were no signs of violence.

IN BRIEF

THE COLOMBIAN army is searching for the passengers of

an airliner hijacked by suspected left-wing rebels and forced

to land on a remote airstrip in northern Colombia. People

dressed in jungle fatigues then reportedly hustled the 41 possengers and five crew into canoes on the Magdalena

Rebels abduct air passengers

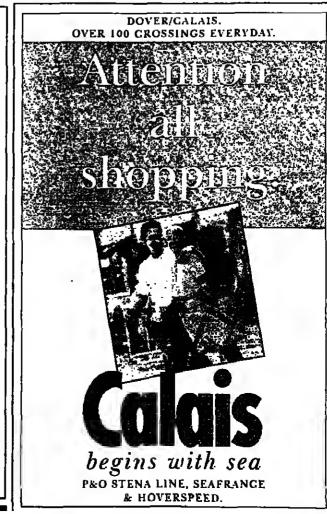
Monitors banned from Algiers poll THE INTERNATIONAL Crisis Group, a political watchdog, said yesterday it had serious doubts about the legitimacy of Algeria's presidential election. The Brussels-hased ICG attacked the Algiers government for refusing to allow international observers to monitor tomorrow's poll and accused the EU of washing its hands of the issue.

Sudan ceasefire extended

SUDAN'S GOVERNMENT and rehel arrules have agreed to prolong a nine-month-old ceasefire in southern areas at risk from famine ahead of a new round of peace talks next week. The Sudan People's Liberation Army, which wants autonomy for southern Sudan, said it would extend the craselire for another three months.

Airline puts down 40 squirrels

HUNDREDS OF Chinese squirrels were killed by the Putch air carrier KLM after they escaped from a detainment centre in Amsterdam. About 40 of the 440 scurried across the airstrip and hoarded planes. KLM said the animals had incorrect health documents and had to be killed when the exporter refused to take them back.



Contempt ruling for 'evasive' Clinton

BILL CLINTON was back in BY MARY DEJEVSKY legal trouble yesterday after a in Washington ruling by an Arkansas judge that he was guilty of contempt for his testimony in the sexual harassment lawsuit hrought costs for taking his testimony,

In her judgment, Susan Webber Wright cited President Clininstructions to testify truthfully in the Jones lawsuit. "The record demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the President responded to plaintiff's questions by giving false, misleading and evasive answers that were designed to obstruct the judicial process."

The judge's findings related specifically to Mr Clinton's denials of a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. "Simply put, the President's ... testimony regarding whether he had ever been alone with Ms Lewinsky was intentionally false, and his statements regarding whether he had ever engaged in sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky likewise were intentionally false, notwithstanding tortured definitions and interpretations

of the term 'sexual relations'." Attacking his muchcriticised technique of "parsing" the judge's questions to find legal loopholes. Judge Webber Wright said: "It is simply not acceptable to employ deceptions and falsehoods in an attempt to obstruct the judicial process, understandable as his aggravation with the plaintiff's

lawsuit may have been." The ruling could prove costly to the Presideot, making him liable for thousands of dollars in costs and jeopardising his licence to practise as a

lawyer. In the first instance, Mr Clinton must pay the judge's and any legal costs incurred by Ms Jones as a result of his lying.

Ms Jones, who recently ton's "wilful failure" to obey her moved back to Arkansas after agreeing an \$850,000 (£530,000) settlement with Mr Clinton, is still in dispute with her successive teams of lawyers about how much she owes them. The long-running case grew out of her accusation that Mr Clinton propositioned her for oral sex in 1991 when he was Arkansas state governor and she was a

While the judge eventually dismissed the case for lack of evidence of sexual harassment, this was before Ms Lewinsky testified to the existence of a relationship, and Ms Jones was contemplating an appeal at the time of the settlement.

Mr Clinton is already deep in debt as a result of legal costs incurred in this and the Lewinsky case, and can ill afford more expense. If the state of Arkansas decided to cancel his licence to practise law, he would be additionally penalised, as this would not only deprive him of a possible source of income after he leaves office, hut add a mark of personal disgrace.

The President's lawyers were reported to be considering an appeal, but an early legal and political consensus appeared to be forming that he should accept the verdict rather than risk keeping the Jones case-and his own legal entanglements - in the



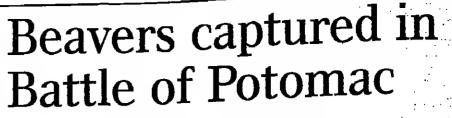
to safety from the flames

A CONSTRUCTION worker trapped on top of a swaying, 250ft-high crane above a raging fire (left) for more than an hour was rescued by a firefighter who dangled perilously from a helicopter cable.

The fire hroke out at an old mill in Atlanta, Georgia, on Monday. The flames were licking at the cable as Matt Mosely, the firefighter, climbed on to the crane and scrambled to the end of the arm, where Ivor Sims was waiting.

Mosely strapped Sims into a harness (above) and both were lowered to the ground. Sims walked to a stretcher, and spectators applauded as he was wheeled to an ambulance. He was in a stable condition yesterday, suffering from smoke inhalation and heat exposure.

Larry Rogers, who was in the helicopter to guide the pilot and the cable, said the flames were intensely hot even 80ft above the cable. (Reuters)



AMERICAN TIMES

WASHINGTON

COMMUNING WITH nature American-style can entail extraordinarily complicated preparation. The higher up the mcome scale you go, the more special clothing and equip-ment you are deemed to need. supplied with outdoorsy overenthusiasm by the vast emporiums that have beaten the track from the country's most venerated outdoors shop, LL Bean. These trendiest of purveyors delight in kitting you out as if to explore the Amazon, when what you had in mind was nothing more strenuous than a spot of birdwatching in the Virginia woods.

Increasingly, though, you seem not to have to go as far as Virginia in pursuit of the American wilds - and you certainly don't need that extra-light, all-weather jacket and matching magenta wetsuit. I have seen more deer on the verges of the Washington suburbs from the comfort of my car than I ever encoun-

Wildlife is encroaching even ton coolly, as it girded for war across the ocean

but it affects a communal

of year. And while hawks and every day you see a beaver.

So it was with shocked incredulity that the park service admitted last week that four of the sacred cherries had been cruelly felled. Smashed to the ground, heavy with pink blossom, they looked like ravished May queens, and the city was out for vengeance. With the most celebrated chopper of cherry trees, George Washington, long gone, suspicion alignted on two enemies of the moment:

tered in the countryside.

on New York. Just a week or so ago, a wandering coyote was apprehended in Central Park. It was shot (with an anaesthetising dart, the police hastened to add), and caged for dispatch to a more conventional habitat "up-state". In Washington last week, a red-tailed hawk made news by swooping on to the White House lawn to feast on a presidential duck. Public sympathy for the savagely dissected the relative rarity of the hawk: live and let die, said Washing-

That, however, was before the beavers. To understand the fuss about the beavers, you need to know two things. Washington does not have many sources of civic pride,

bloom along the tidal basin of Service had the unenviable the Potomac River at this time task of "doing something". It set off "slow and easy" (its ducks and deer may be two a words) on a twin-track policy penny in the capital, it is not of prevention. Vulnerable trees were encased in netting and a \$1,500 (£940) contract was out out on the beaver, the trappers

were called in. On night two of their patrol, spectacular success: they had their beaver - alive. But before they could claim their bounty, word came from a chastened park service: "We believe there are now two beavers. We have had sightings." On Saturday night, moonlit hlossom-strollers (their ranks now swelled with beaver-watchers and television crews) witnessed the capture of a second "furry critter" or "tree-murderer" (depending on your point of view). By Monday, though, there was talk of a third beaver, perhaps a whole family.

By now, the park serviceits phone lines jammed by callers appealing for the beavers to be spared - was having to watch its language: With a real war never far away, any hint of deportation, still less species-cleansing, was off-limits. Everyone did their best

The traps were the most humane on the market; a Pennsylvania couple offered the vacant pond on their estate, but the park service said that as celebrities, the beavers anti-war protesters and - perdeserved to have their new adish the thought - disgruntled dress kept private. Serbs, Small matter that nei-

One woman even described the beaver as a "true follower of the American Dream. He should be allowed to build again," she wrote to The Washington Post, "revel in his success and be proud of the beaver that he can be-Beaver v Cherry Trees, this come; because this is America." To which there is surely only one response: "Bravo! Bravo! God bless the Beaver - and God hless America!"



the American dream'

ther had been much in evi-

Expert examination, how-

ever turned up not axe marks.

but tooth marks. The culprit

was a beaver, Whereupon

everything changed. In

city of lawyers was split evenly. It was "save our beavers"

dence before then,

against "save our trees" causes equal in environmenswoon over the hundreds of tal merit, but fundamentally in-Japanese cherry trees that compatible. The National Park

MARY DEJEVSKY

I Champagne Breaks

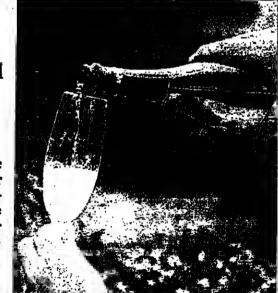
The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with SeaFrance European Life to offer you excellent discounts on holidays to Champagne. From just £49 per person you can take a break in the heart of the Champagne region, inclusive of return ferry crossing, two nights' accommodation and a complimentary bottle of champagne on your arrival.

what your champagne break includes

Travel with SeaFrance from Dover to Calais on any one of the 15 daily crossings and start your holiday to France the moment you step on board. Once in the famous Champagne region you can visit the major champagne cellars such as Mercier and Moet, where guided tours give you an insight into the whole magical champagne production process. While you are there, you can make excellent savings by stocking up on as much champagne as you can carry for your own celebrations at home. With its expertise in tailormaking self-drive holidays to France, SeaFrance European Life has specially selected four hotels for this exclusive offer, ranging from two to four stars.

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Simply call SeaFrance European Life on 0870 242 4455, quoting The Independent Champagne Offer. To qualify for your offer you must collect four of the ten tokens printed in The Independent and The Independent on Sunday from Friday 9 April to Sunday 18 April (inclusive). At least one of the tokens must be from The Independent on Sunday. Then, to validate your offer after booking, send your tokens with the completed application form to The Independent Champagne Offer, SeaFrance European Life, 10 Kerry Street, Leeds, LS18 4AW. Please note that all bookings must be made between 10 April and 30 April 1999 (inclusive).



PARTICIPATING HOTELS Le Thibault IV

Situated 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation, with reasonably sized rooms and en suite hathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Cham-

pagne area, serving both gastronomic menus and champagne dinners. The hotel can arrange a free visit to local wine-cellars and, although this does not include wine-tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight into the Champagne world!

Troyes, Forêt d'Orient ***

Reautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and on an 18medieval Troyes and 100km from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a

ಾ

hole golf course, 15km from 1 round of golf or archery (both playable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous-sized rooms offer satellite TV telephone and lovely bath-

rooms with separate w.c. The restaurant has a poolside terrace

offering good-value menus. Family rooms available.

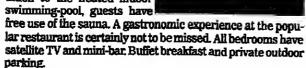
Epernay Hostelierie de la Reine Blanche

The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming-pool, sauna and fitness room and the bed-

rooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine-cellars holding vintages dating back to 1929 to accompany its restaurant's fine gastronomic cuisine.

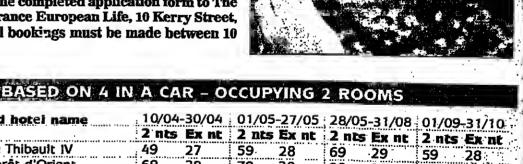
Relms, L'Assiette Champenoise ***

Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In addition to the heated indoor



The Independent Champagne Offer 0870 242 4455

Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm, Fri-Sat 9am-5.30pm, 5un 11am-4pm For further information on SeaFrance European Life, you can email them or visit their website. el@frenchif.demon.co.uk www.europeanlife.co.uk



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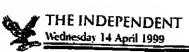
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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Roaring start for ISAs at Halifax

HALIFAX, the mortgage bank, vesterday reported that more than a quarter of a million people had taken out Individual Savings Accounts since their launch just a week ago. More than 100,000 customers had npened new cash ISAs during the week. A further 150,000 rolled over their PEP accounts into ISAs designed for stocks and shares.

Scapa to return £120m to investors



SCAPA, the Blackburnbased group, intends to return £120m, nr about 50p a share, to shareholders after selling its papermaking products division to Vnitb nf Germany for £329m yesterday.

Last year the husinesses sold made operating profits of £45m nn sales of £263m. roughly half the entire company's business, but the market is increasingly

competitive. Scapa, headed by chief executive David Dunn (pictured), will focus no its technical tapes and fastenings husineas, where margins have been lower hut prospects are brighter. It made an aperating profit of £10.1m no turnover of £92m in the six months to last September. The shares leapt 27p to 144p.

Johnston raises Portsmouth stake

JOHNSTON PRESS, the regional newspaper publisher, yesterday snapped up another 2.36 per cent of Portsmouth & Sunderland, taking its shareholding in the publishing and convenience store group to 17.35 per cent. Johnston paid 1.750p each for the shares, compared to the price of 1.600p it paid in January when it took a 14.99 per cent

The Monopobes and Mergers Commission is investigating whether to allow Johnston, and its rivals Newsquest and News Communications & Media, to mount a full takeover bid for P&S. However, P&S last night retorted that 1,750p undervalues the company and advised sharebolders to take no action.

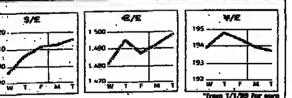
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TSE 250	\$592.40	33.50	0.60	5970.90	4247.60	3.13
FTSE 350	3088.60	31.80	1,04	3084,40	2210.40	2,51
FTSE All Share	2986.26	29,90	1.01	2982.22	2143,53	2.55
TSE SmallCap	2428.60	10,70	0,44	2793.80	1834,40	3,49
FTSE Fledgling	1379.30	1.80	0.14	1517.10	1046.20	3.87
FTSE AIM	889.80	8.40	0,95	1146.90	761,30	1.14
FTSE Eurotop-100	3035.38	39.04	1,30	3079.27	2018,15	1,91
FTSE Eurotop 300	1306.15	16,52	1,28	1332,07	880,63	1.84
Dow Jones	10346.44	13.59	0.13	10340.62	7400,30	1.53
Nikkel 4	16715.16	207.76	1,26	17166.06	12787,90	0,76
Hang Seng	11899.69	154.95	1,32	11919.83	6544.79	2,98
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S&P 500	1348.43	-10.79	-0.79	1358,69	923.32	1.19
Nastian	2582.94	-19.90	-0.77	2606.24	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6933.50	11,32	0.16	7837.70	_5320.90	1.51
Brazil Bovespa	11214.04	-196,61	-1.72_	12339.14	4575.69	3.14
Belglum Bei20	3327.75	4.16	0,13	3713.21	2696.26	1.98
Amsterdam Exch	540.99	4,82	0.90	600.65	366.58	1.85
France CAC 40-	4367,41	12.41	0.29	4416,00	2881.21	1.66
Milan MIB30	36995.00	288.00	0.79	39170.00	24175.00	1.04
Madrid (bex 35	10120.80	81.60	0.81	10989.80	6869,90	1,66
Irish Overall	5437.91	86.22	1.61	5581.70	3732.57	1.52
S Korea Comp .	689.80	0.16	0.02	700.44	277_37	1.00
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Japan	0.16	-0.52	0.23	-0.47	1.60	-0.26	2.35	-0.14
Germany	2.65	-0.98	2.72	-1,20	3.83	-1.02	4.80	-0.60

CURRENCIES



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www.bloomberg.com/nk

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lgium (francs)		New Zealand (5)	2.862
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RBS poised to renew offer of merger with Barclays

ROYAL BANK of Scotland was BY ANDREW GARFTELD last night standing by to renew its offer of an agreed merger deal with Barclays Bank, the high street financial giant which has been left rudderless by the shock decision yesterday of its new chief executive Mike O'Neill to retire on health grounds on his first day in the

The Scottish bank had agreed to meet senior Barclays executives to discuss a possible merger back in February, only for the meeting to be cancelled at the last minute after Mr O'Neill had

agreed to join the group. The RBS chicf executive, Sir George Mathewson, is now

Financial Editor

overtures in the light of yesterday's developments.

The prospect of a bank mega-merger helped drive the FTSE 100 up more than 70 points to a record high of

have both risen by 40 per cent tion took hold.

understood to be planning fresh fits it would bring to the bank

by providing an instant solution to its leadership crisis. The bank has a tried and respected senior management team

ecutive who joined RBS last year from National Australia RBS and Barclays - which

so far this year - rose sharply again yesterday, putting on 62p to £14.25 and 460 to £19.99 respectively as merger specula-RBS is believed to have iden-

tified potential cost savings of £200m from a merger with Barclays, in addition to the bene-

headed by Sir George and Fred Goodwin, the deputy chief ex-

One investment banker said yesterday: "Mathewson and Fred Goodwin, his deputy, are an impressive team.

Because of the disparity in size, the deal would have to be structured as a reverse takeover by RBS of Barclays, with Edinburgh being given at least a symbolic role as group headquarters in order to pacify Scottish public opinion in the run up to the first Scottish

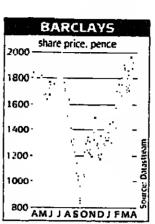
assembly elections. RBS has a market capitalisation of £12bn against 2000 for Barclays.

Sir Peter Middleton, Barclays' acting chief executive, insisted yesterday that the bank would not be panicked into a merger, but neither would it reject reasonable propositions out of hand.

"We've demonstrated that we can push the business forward with the divisional heads," he said.

The bank was confident that having done much of the spadework already, the beachunters Spencer Stuart would be able to come up with alternative candidates within a reasonable timeframe

However investment bank-



ers warned that given the current merger frenzy in Europe and the growing likelihood of

fore long, institutional investors bitten by the merger bug may not have the patience to sit tight and wait for the search for a new chief executive to bear

One financier said last night: "They have seen what has happened to bank share prices abroad where mergers have taken place. We bave been waiting over a year for a merger in the UK banking sector and nothing has happened. Earnings are steady nut not spectacular. business is flat; the market is looking for something else to take the FTSE on. This might be the gap everyone has been looking for

Outlook, page 17



Tesco expands home shopping

TESCO IS planning to roll out its BY PETER THAL LARSEN home shopping service in stores across the country over the next few months, as the supermarket group attempts to cash in on the success of its free Internet service.

Tesco will offer the service. which allows customers to order their shopping online and have it delivered to their homes for a £5 fee, from 100 of its stores, enabling it to reach most of the country.

The move comes after a two-vear trial of the service involving 11 stores, during which Tesco experimented with allowing customers to order by phone and fax. However, it has concluded that costs will be kept as their Internet provider, with

down if customers only order via the Internet.

"Clearly customers want the service," said Andrew Higginson, Tesco's finance director. "But you have to be red-bot on accuracy and quality if it's Tesco expects the service to

expand its customer base by

than 200,000 people use Tesco

tempting shoppers who cannot travel or who live too far away from a supermarket. The offer is also likely to appeal to users of Tesco's free Internet service, which was launched earlier this year. More

month. Tesco said the home shop-

ping service would create an extra 1.500 jobs in the UK as part of a total of 10.000 that Tesco expects to create this year by extending existing stores and opening new ones. The company is also adding another 10,000 jobs to its operations in central Europe.

Thailand and South Korea. The move came as Tesco shook off the gloom in the supermarket sector to report a 7.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £881m for the year to the end of February.

The rise was achieved despite last year's price-cutting nussion.

a further 10,000 joining each campaign, which would have renuced profits by £40m. This was followed in February by another round of price cuts that will cost Tesco £60m on an annualised basis.

Tesco said like-for-like sales growth of 4 per cent was due to a 2.5 per cent increase in sales volumes and a 1.5 per cent rise in prices, the result of higher taxes on tobacco and petrol. Terry Leahey, Tesco's chief

executive, said 1998 was a challenging" year for the industry despite the recent conclusion by John Bridgeman, the director general of the OFT, to refer the supermarket industry to the Competition Com-

One2One slashes its call rates

network currently up for sale. yesterday tried to claw back some of the ground it has lost to its rivals in the competitive mobile phone market by slash-

From the end of April, One2One will charge just 10p a minute for daytime calls and 2p a minute for evening and week-end calls. The tariffs, which apply regardless of whether calls are local or national, mean that at some points of the day using One2One will be cheaper than using a British Telecom fixed-line phone.

Tim Samples, managing director, said the simplicity of the new tariffs would appeal to customers. who often complained that mobile phone prices are too

confusing.

He added that the tariffs would also encourage people to give up their fixed-line phones. We connect 110 million calls a week and have ample opportunity for more," be said. "The average housebold uses their BT line for 700 minutes a month. I want some of that."

One2One is the smallest of the UK's four mobile phooe operators with a 15 per cent share of the market. In recent months the network has lost ground as Cellnet and Vodafone signed up millions of new customers with their popular "pay-

as-you-go" services. Mr Samples said the new rates would also be made available to users of One2One's own pay-as-you-go service, Up2You, who currently pay 40p a minute for calls. However, in order to take advantage of the rates,

ONE2ONE, the mobile phone BY PETER THAL LARSEN

users will also have to pay a tariff of at least 50p a day.

Mr Samples justified the change by arguing that it was important to encourage customers to use their phones. "This is not just about seeing who can connect the most customers," be said.

Industry analysts yesterday played down suggestions that the mobile phone market was about to be plunged into a price war "One2One had been losing market share and this allows them to take the initiative." said Justinian Clifford-Bowles a telecoms analyst at Commerzbank. But it certainly

isn't a revolution." Other operators were also dismissive, stressing that network quality was just as important to new customers. "One2One has to be careful that people don't end up thinking they are cheap for a reason, said one.

A recent survey by Oftel, the telecoms watchdog. identified One2One as one of the least reliable networks, although the company claims its own surveys put it ahead of its rivals in terms of reliability.

Mr Samples said he expected average revenues per customer to remain stable as users increase usage in response to the tariff cuts. Contract customers now spend £480 a year, while pre-pay customers spend more than £200.

Analysts value the company, expected to report earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of £100m this year at £7bn to £11bn.

Laporte's £1.5bn deal founders on Hoechst veto

LAPORTE, the UK fine chemicals group, was yesterday forced to scrap plans for a £1.5bn takeover by the chemical giant Clariant after strong opposition from Hoechst, the Swiss group's largest shareholder. The British group baffled the

City when it said that talks with

a potential bidder had ended,

less than 24 hours after admit-

ting it was discussing an offer.

The collapse sent Laporte

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA shares crashing 12.5 per cent to

Sources close to the deal said

the embarrassing U-turn was prompted by Hoechst's lastminute opposition. The German chemicals and pharmaceutical group, which holds 45 per cent of Clariant, is believed to have vetoed the deal at a meeting with the two companies on Monday

night. The German company was concerned that a Clariant-Laporte deal might jeopardise its own merger with Rhone-Poulenc of France. Hoechst needs to seil its chemical businesses, including its stake in Clariant, before merging with Rhone-Poulenc, and was worried that corporate action by Clariant might delay the process.

Industry sources said Hoechst could also have hesi not about orice, nor manage-

tated at the prospect of financing part of the Laporte deal as Clariant was likely to add to its \$1.9bn (£1.2bn) debt to fund the takeover "It was a dooe deal, they

went for agreement from Hoechst and they were refused," one insider said. Another source said the deal cleared all relevant hurdles before foundering on Hoechst's concerns. "This is

ment, personalities, strategy, means they are now up for sale," due diligence or competition Analysts said the collapse of

the takeover was a huge embarrassment both for Clariant and Laporte's chief executive. Jim Leng. They said the demise of the deal would promot other chemicals groups to bid for the UK company. "Laporte is in play now. The fact that they were willing to agree a takeover Speciality Chemicals.

Industry experts said the US group PPG and some European players, including Viag and Degussa-Hels of Germany, could enter the frav.

This is the second setback in four months for Clariant's expansion plans. Last year the group dropped plans for a \$8.1bn merger with Swiss rival Ciba

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSIE POUNDED to yet another peak. The index ended just below its day's best, up 71.9 points to 6,513.1 - its first close above 6,500. Supporting indices were also strong. Turnover again topped 1.1 billion shares. Tesco, on results, led the Footsie leader board with a 9.75p gain to 169.25p, with Amvescap, the US fund manager, not -- in percentage terms -- far behind with a 38p gain to 670.5p. Barclays, on the brief reign of chief executive Michael O'Neill, rose 46p

Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were treading water at midday, paring gains amid jitters over Intel earnings - due out after the market closed - and the Kosovo crisis. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 2 points, nr 0.02 per cent. at 10.312, baving been as much as 79 points higher earlier in the day. Technology stocks bore the

brunt of the jitters over the

computer chip manufacturer

Intel, and the Nasdaq was down

announcement from the

18 points at 2,581.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS finished the day modestly higher with Monday's rise on Wall Street tempering fears of a sharp correction in stock

But investors remained wary ahead of an earnings announcement from the US computer chip giant Intel, made after the New York stock market closed last night.

The Nikkei index closed up 207.76 points - or 1.26 per cent - at 16,715.16. while Nikkei futures closed up 180 at 16,740.

HONG KONG

WALL STREET'S record Monday close pushed Hong Kong stocks to their bighest levels in almost 18 months. The Hang Seng index closed 154.95 points higher at 11,899.69, having earlier hit an intra-day high of 11,956.43.

Hnward Gorges, a director at South China Brokerage, said: "The blue-chips are dning well and there is interest in secondline counters and companies announcing corporate news." Dealers said further gains were likely to be capped at 12,000.

PARIS

THE PARIS bourse set its second consecutive closing record for 1999. despite fears that the conflict in the Balkans will escalate.

The Cac-40 hit an intra-day high of 4,410.27, but tumbled by almost 100 points following reports that Serb troops had crossed into Albania. The index eventually closed up 0.28 per cent at 4,367.41.

One dealer said: "We saw a knee-jerk reaction to the news of the Serbs in Albania, and from now oo the action there will bring increasing pressure on sentiment"

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HE INDEPENDENT

RBS merger may be best for Barclays

IS BARCLAYS just accident prone. or is there something seriously wrong? The stock market took one look at the bank's latest embarrassing setback - the failure of its new chief executive to spend any more than a couple of nours in the job - and decided that probably oo balance, it didn't really matter. If the vawning management gap now apparent at the top of Barclays helps shift the log jam over banking consolidation in Bultain, it might acrually be rather good news, the stock market figured.

Since a merger with National Westminster Bank, or any other "English" clearer, is almost bound to be ruled out on competition grounds, the only obvious candidates would be the two Scottish banks, of which Royal Bank of Scotland must be the front runner. With a market capitalisation of little more than half that of Barclays, any such proposal would essentially have to be framed as a management buy-in, or reverse takeover. Demoralised, bemused and out to lunch though what is left of the Barclays board might be, is this something it could reasonably

Certainly Sir George Mathewson.



OUTLOOK

Royal Bank of Scotland's chief executive, is ambitious and accomplished enough to pull it off. The cost savings to be had from such a combination would plainly not be as dramatic as with an English clearer, but in retail banking and corpo-rate lending they might still add up to several hundred million annually. Furthermore, it would provide some kind of a solution to the prohlem of who to lead Barclays into the next millennium.

Barclays' chances of attracting another top notch banker from the US like Mike O'Neill would seem to be slim. Even if ooe were available for hire at short notice, nobody likes being second choice, and in any ic, but by walking out in the way he

good is locked into US remuneration packages that would make end up achieving his aim afterall. any such acquisition prohibitively expensive. Executives of Mike O'Neill's ability who are also prepared to do the job at a reasonable rate, are in short supply.

Sir George would undoubtedly have been on Barclays' original shopping list for the job, but there would be no good reason for Sir George, at this relatively late stage in his career, to ditch his Edinburgh power base for the snakepit of London. If he could bring it with him. however, that might be a different

The only probable alternative to Barclays' management problems would appear to be an internally groomed candidate, but even if there is someone of sufficient calibre waiting in the wings, this solution is unlikely to be as pleasing to the City as a fully fledged merg-

Martin Taylor, the previous chief executive, always believed a further big consolidation of British banking inevitable, and during his time at Barclays he made several failed attempts to bring it about. It's iron-

uum in leadership, Mr Taylor may

Banking review

IF THE Office of Fair Trading could find no good reason for investigating the banks, what chance does Don Cruickshank have of discovering anything seriously untoward, still less of coming up with any practical remedies. The luckless Mr Cruichshank, whose other day job is trying to persuade business to prepare for the millennium bug. was wheeled out yesterday to give an "update" on his Treasury inspired review of British banks - and very little he

had to say about it too. The OFT, it seems, was not convinced there was sufficient prima facie evidence of anti-competitive behaviour to merit a competition inquiry. John Bridgeman, felt uncomfortable enough ordering a Competition Authority probe of the supermarkets. With the banks, he put his foot down.

Which is how the whole thing ended up with Mr Cruickshank, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is convinced that the banking system is

case, nearly everyone who's any did and prompting the present vac failing small business and failing the British economy, and he's determined to prove it. But if this investigation is not really about competition, what is it about? The line from the Treasury is that banking is an immensely important part of the economy - which is true enough - and, as such, it is vitally important to make sure that the sector works as effi-

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ciently as possible. While this is a laudable which objective, it is not obvious that Mr Cruickshank's review - which is starting to look in danger of descending into the type of theoretical mumbo jumbo that dogged the OFT supermarkets probe - is the most sensible way of going about things. For the time being, he's merely contributing to the banks' supposed inefficiency by taking up so much of

None of this is to say that fostering competition is unimportant or that Britain's banks (or Britain's supermarkets; couldn't do a lot to improve customer service and cut charges. But as dull and as boring as it may sound, the best thing that the Treasurv can do to give the fat and lazy parts of the UK economy a wake-up call is to get the macro-economy on

Stamping on flagrant competi- in the way our pensions are invested. tion abuses and ensuring that public policy does not distort entrepreneurial incentives obvious-

ly require government attention. The seemingly endless reviews and consultations, the convoluted theoretical studies that this government appears so prone to are probably harmless enough in themgoing to shed much light on the darkness. When it comes to encouraging business, any number of well intentioned reviews is no substitute for getting the macro-economy right, cutting red tape, and reducing cor-

Loony indices

HERE'S A fascinating and somewhat disturbing fact. The value of the combined holding of UK pensioo funds in BP Amoco is more than their entire investment in the US stock market. Both of these things are shocking - first that their exposure to a single company could be so large and second that their participation in the greatest bull market of all time could have been so small. And both track and let the market do the rest. rather point to the need for reform

Pension fund trustees, probably more than any other kind of investor are particularly prone to the tyranny of the benchmarks - rightly so in some respects given that they

have a duty to ensure their pensioners' money keeps up with the market. But it also leads to some odd distortions and a tendency to invest selves, but it seems unlikely they are disproportionately in UK domiciled companies. In today's increasingly global economy, this is a silly and outdated approach to investment.

At root, however, this is caused not by the stupidity of pension trustees, but by the madness of the indices. The index we all watch, the FTSE 100, is not really representative of anything any longer. A mix of pure UK plays and large multi na-tionals that have more in common with the constituents of the Dow Jones Industrial Average than the great bulk of British companies, it ought to be consigned to the dustbin of history.

There is an urgent need for new indices against which investors can benchmark themselves - an index of global companies that includes foreign as well as British concerns, and much better thought out national

Scope of banking inquiry is widened

DON CRUICKSHANK, the former BY LEA PATERSON director-general of Oftel, yesterday widened the scope of his inquiry into the banking sector and rejected calls from banks to exclude large parts of their business from the review.

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Consumer concerns - such as the transparency of banking charges - will now be included in Mr Cruickshank's inquiry, initiated last November by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr Cruickshank, who yesterday relessed a progress report, said be all intended to study the impact of electronic money on

banking competition. Mr Cruickshank said: "The rapidly expanding use of emoney offers a great opportunity for increasing competition, particularly in money transmis-

sioo services. It would be a pity if this opportunity were lost." The former Oftel leader asked to look into the sector after

the Office of Fair Trading told the Treasury there was insufficient evidence of anti-competitive behaviour to merit a competitioo inquiry - said be had rejected calls to exclude business banking from the probe. Responses to January's con-

sultation document revealed that neither banks nor most of their customers believed there were problems in the supply of credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs). However, Mr Cruickshank said be remained unconvinced that the issue of SME credit was prob-

lem-free. He said previous experience had taught him that customers in markets "where there may be no real choice" may find it hard to tell whether or not they receive good service.

So-called "merchant acquiring" - credit and debit-card acceptance in retail outlets - will be a key part of Mr Cruickshank's inquiry, as will a detailed study of banking profitability. You can't come to a competition conclusioo without understanding prices and profitabillty," Mr Cruickshank said.

The inquiry is at the "data collection phase", and Mr Cruickshank said he hoped to begin forming preliminary conclusions in the autumn before publishing the report in the winter.



Outlook, above Cruickshank: Inquiry will cover banks' profitability

Three more directors quit CSG

THE BID by Michael Ashcroft, the Conservative Party treasurer, for recruitment firm Corporate Services Group took another twist yesterday as three directors caved in to share-

holder pressure and resigned. The departures of nonexecutives Ronald de Young and Tim Holland-Bosworth and acting chairman Ralph Hulbert follow last week's resignation of chairman Jeffrey Fowler. They could scupper the £282m bid by New Carlisle, a service compa-

By Francesco Guerrera

ny controlled by Mr Ashcroft. Under the terms of the complex offer, the entrepreneur has the right to walk away if the compositioo of the board changes. New Carlisle said yesterday its advisers were in talks with the

Takeover Panel over whether its offer should be withdrawn. The resignations are another concessioo to three key CSG sharebolders who want to

to CSG's abysmal performance. Mercury Asset Management. M&G and Schroders, which own around 31 per cent of CSG, were also boosted yesterday when the company agreed to call an extraordinary meeting to vote on their candidates for the board positions. They claim to have the required 50 per cent majority to install Michael Davies, National Express chairman, Gilles Avenel, finance director of insurer Sun Life & Provincial,

and Peter Button as directors.

COMPANY RESULTS

replace the board to put an end

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Peter Black Holdings (F)	195 19m [173 8m]	* 21,7m [·]	23,61p (21 39p)	3.250 (-)		
Cirqual (1)	23.67m (23.91m)	4 01m (5.01 m)	9.88p (12.01p)	4.10p (4.10p)		
Glencar Mining (F)	- (-1	US -2.786m (0 148m)	-4.29c (0.21c)	- [-)		
Pressac (I)	93m (56.24m)	4.99m (4.49m)	3 71p [4.52p]	1.14p (1.06p)		
Rugby Estates (SP)	9.52m (29 73m)	8.2m (3.79m)	30.7p [13.8p]	2.91p (2.85p)		
Jefferson Sewritt Group (F)		171.02m [150.18m]	2.40 (9.6p)	4.790 [4.620]		
Tesco (F)	18,5bn (17 447bn)	842m (745m)	9.14p (7.97p)	4.13p (3.87p)		•
Torday & Carlista (F)	19 76m [19.82m]	1 34m (1.37m)	3.8p (6.2p)	0.5p (-1	-	•
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Offers extended to 23rd April

Recommended offer by Apax Partners & Co. Capital Limited on behalf of Novaside Limited for Avonside Group PLC

Apax Partners & Co. Capital Limited ("Apax Partners"] announces on behalf of Novaside Limited ("Novaside") that by means of a formal offer document dated and posted on 9 April 1999 (the "Offer Document") and by means of this advertisement, Apax Partners is making a recommended offer ("the Offer") on behalf of Novaside to acquire all of the issued and to be issued share capital of Avonside Group PLC ("Avonside"). This advertisement alone does not constitute and must not be construed as an offer to acquire shares. Novaside has received irrevocable undertakings from those Avonside directors who are shareholders to accept the Offer in respect of their entire beneficial interests in Avonside Shares, representing approximately 0.30% of the issued share capital of Avonside. These undertakings may out be withdrawn. Terms defined in the Offer Document have the same meaning in this advertisement.

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Subject to the Offer becoming or being declared wholly unconditional, an Avonside Shareholder who validly accepts the Offer will receive 55p in cash for each Avonside Share.

The Offer values all of the issued and to be issued share capital of Avonside at approximately £22.38 million. The Offer represents a premium of 17.5% over the closing middle market price of 40p for an Avonside Share on 5 January 1999, the last day of business before the board of Avonside announced that it was in discussions which might not lead to an offer being made for the whole of the issued share capital of Avonside. No final dividend will be paid in respect of the year ended 31 December 1998 if the Offer becomes or is declared unconditional in all respects.

The full terms and conditions of the Offer (including details of how the Offer may be accepted) are set out in the Offer Document and Form of

Avonside Shareholders who accept the Offer must rely only on the Offer Document and the Form of Aeceptance for all the terms and conditions of

The Offer is, by means of this advertisement, being extended to all persons to whom the Offer Document may not be dispatched who hold, or who are entitled to have allotted or issued to them. Avonside Shares. Such persons are informed that enpies of the Offer Document and Form of Acceptance are available for collection from Apax Partners & Co. Capital Limited at 15 Portland Place, London, W1N 3AA.

The Offer, which has been made by means of the Offer Document and this advertisement will be open for acceptance until 3.00pm on 30 April 1999 such later time(s) and/or date(s) as Novaside may, subject to the Code, decide).

The Independent Directors Iwho comprise Oavid Humphrey, Neil O'Brien and Nicholas Talbot Ricet, being the Oirectors who do not have any interest in Novaside and who will not have any continuing involvement with Avonside if the Offer is successful, have taken responsibility for considering the Offer on behalf of Avonside and, together with their professional advisers, for reaching conclusions on the apprepriate recommendation to Avonside Shareholders. Taking into account the factors set out in the Chairman's letter in the Offer Document, the Independent Directors of Avonside, who have been so advised by Albert E Sharp Securities, consider the terms of the Offer to be fair and reasonable. Accordingly, the Independent Directors of Avonside unanimously recommend all Avonside Shareholders to accept the Offer as they have undertaken to do in respect of their own beneficial holdings of 107,000 Avonside Shares, representing approximately 0.26% of the issued share capital of Avonside. In providing advice to the Independent Oirectors, of Avonside, Albert E Sharp Securities has taken into account the commercial assessments of the Independent Oirectors of Avonside. Following the Offer having become or being declared unconditional in all respects, Craig Slater will subscribe for equity in Novaside. He has not therefore participated in the Independent Oirectors' recommendation.

The Offer is not being made directly or indirectly, and the Offer Document and Form of Aeceptanee are not being and must not be mailed or otherwise distributed or sent, in whole or in part, in or into or from, the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan.

This advertisement is not being published in or otherwise distributed or sent in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan and persons reading this advertisement or wishing to accept the Offer iincluding custodians, trustees and nominees) must not distribute or send this advertisement, the Offer Document nor the Form of Acceptance [nor any related document(s)] in, into or from the United States, Canada, Australia or Japan nor use the United States, Canadaan, Australian or Japanese mails or any such means, instrumentality or facility for any purpose, directly or indirectly, in connection with the Offer and doing so will invalidate purported acceptances of the Offer.

All Avonside Shareholders [including custodians, trustees and nominees] who would otherwise intend to forward any of the documents relating to the Offer to any jurisdiction outside the UK should seek appropriate advice before taking such action.

This advertisement is published on behalf of Novaside by Apax Partners and has been approved by Apax Partners solely for the purposes of section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

Apax Partners, which is regulated in the United Kingdom by The Securities and Futures Authority, is acting for Novaside in connection with the Offer and no-one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than Novaside for providing the protections afforded to customers of Apax Partners or for giving advice in relation to the Offer

Albert E Sharp Securities, which is regulated in the United Kingdom by The Securities and Futures Authority, is acting for Avonside in connection with the Offer and no-one clsc and will not be responsible to anyone other than Avonside for providing the protections afforded to customers of Albert E Sharp Securities or for giving advice in relation to the Offer.

The directors of Novaside, the directors of Alchemy Partners (Guernsey) Limited (which manages the Alchemy lovestment Plan, which is investing in Novaside) and the partners of Alchemy Partners listed in the Offer Document accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement other than the recommendation of the Independent Directors. The Independent Directors accept responsibility for their recommendation in this advertisement. To the best of the knowledge and belief of these respective parties (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement for which they are collectively responsible is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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Blue chips ride the Buffett factor

THE STOCK market has lit upon a new guessing game spotting investment guru Warren Buffett's latest British investment

He has let it be known that he is stalking a British company and his stake will soon move through the declarable 3 per cent barrier. Until he has to make an announcement. the sage of Omaha is naturally playing his cards close to his chest, shrouding the identify of his target in mystery:

But the Buffett reticence was an irresistible temptation for many traders to try to anticipate the legeodary American investor's intentions.

Great Universal Stores, up 35.5p to 780.5p, and Royal Bank of Scotland, up 62p at 1,425p, were probably the two lavourite candidates. But Reuters, 36.5p higher at

LONDON PACIFIC, an obscure financial group. soared 174p to 393.5p; annther beneficiary of unfettered internet fever.

The Jersey-based company is said to have stakes io 15 unquoted, US Internet operations. Many are still in the fledgling stage but, the story runs, if they all managed to come to market the Londoo Pacific shareholdings could be worth over £1bn. The company's ADRs have beeo stroog in New York.

1,009.5p, Marks & Spencer. 14.25p to 429.5p, and fund manager Amvescap, 38p to 670.5p, were others in the frame. Spirits behemoth Diageo could be another target as Mr Buffett at one time built a stake in one of its constituents, Guinness, But Diageo fell 8p to 676.5p.

The Buffett influence, takeover excitement and a firm New York opening helped Footsie to post yet another record high, up 71.9 points at 6.513.1 in busy trading. Supporting shares also made beadway.

Tesco, following results, led the Footsie leader board with a 9.75p gain to 169.25p. Among those in the takeover ferment were Bass, the brewer and hotelier. It frothed 33p to 877.5p Granada was preparing a





DEREK

strike. The market is convinced that the leisure group, up 50p at 1,143p, has expansion in mind and is casting around for a bid candidate. A while ago Whitbread, up 30.5p at 978.5p. was rumoured to be in Granada's sights.

Unilever rose 24.5p to 595p

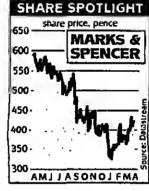
on rumours that it plans a US acquisition. Barclays, on the brief reign of chief executive Michael O'Neill, was at one time down 49p. But the realisation that the bank has merely increased its vulnerability to a takeover strike lifted the shares 46p to 1,119p. Lloyds TSB added 39.5p to 1,060p on speculation that it may abandon its rumoured US ambitions and turn its attention to Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland was seen as another contender for the accident-prone bank.

itive analysts' meetings, but stockbroker Sutherlands was unimpressed, holding its year's profit forecast at a bottom-ofthe range £392m following talks with the company. AstraZeneca missed the

Scottish & Newcastle

jumped 27p to 674p on its pos-

fun, achieving its sixth fall in a row. The shares lost 33p to 2,732p; they have yet to hit winning ways since the Anglo-Swedish merger was com-



pleted. Railtrack reversed 24p to 1,355p following negative regulatory comments, and Dixons suffered a predictable reaction to its heady surge, falling 22p to 1,542p.

Scapa's £329m sale of its paper business to the German Voith group lifted the shares 27p to 144p and inspired other packaging and paper shares, with David S Smith rising 10p to 123p.

St James Place put on 21.5p to 280p oo thoughts that Prudential's swoop on the M&G unit trust group could put the life insurer into play, and Safeway rose 6,250 to 251,50 on talk of an overseas strike.

Laporte, the chemicals group, dropped 95p to 667.5p as its takeover talks were abondoned after just a day. The group is now seen as in play. Next, the fashion chain,

WEIR IS moving ahead again: the chares rose a further 10p to 272.5p. American predators

have circled and in February the engineer turned down a 300p a share offer from Flowserve of Texas. The latest story is of the hunted turning bunter. It is said to be deeply involved in talks to buy some major parts of a leading Swiss group. Weir shares touched 307p on the appearance of Flowserve.

firmed 8p to 830p as bedge fund Tiger Management sold more shares. Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers rose 50p to 1,750p as Johnston Press lifted its stake to 17.35 per cent.

The "A" shares of Sotheby's, the auctioneer, surged a further 312.5p to 2,312.5p following a US report about the scope for auctions on the Internet. Sotheby's plans a website in the summec Pilat Technologies, on its

broadcast systems sale, rose a further 12p to 47.5p. Petra Diamonds sparkled 16.5p higher to 81p following investment meetings, and Cambridge Mineral Resources firmed 1.25p to 8p on growing hopes for its Irish diamond prospect.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.1 billion GILTS INDEX: 114.19 -0.25

RJB signs £1.3bn power deal

BRITAIN'S beleaguered coal industry received a major boost yesterday after RJB Mining. the country's biggest producer, signed a £1.3bn deal to supply the electricity generator National

The power group has agreed to buy up to 28 million tonnes of 9,000 workforce. RJB coal over the next four years. The new contract will be added to a previous deal for 18 nullion tonnes, bringing the total coal to be supplied by RJB to National Power to 46 million tonnes.

National Power's biggest stations: the Drax in North Yorkshire, the Eggborough plant in East Yorkshire and the Didcot generator in Oxfordshire. National Power said the deal

The coal will go to three of

would not be affected by its decision to sell Drax in return for regulatory clearance to acquire the regional electricity supplier Midlands Electricity.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

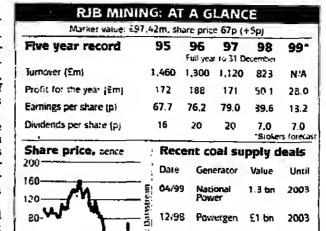
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The coal contract, which follows similar deals with other electricity companies, including PowerGen and Eastern. eases fears of thousands of redundancies among RJB's

The jobs of many of the group's employees have been under threat in recent years as the spread of gas-fired power stations and import of cheaper coal caused a slump in RJB's sales and profits. The chief executive, Richard

Budge, yesterday stopped short of pledging that there would be no redundancies, but he said that the National Power deal would enable the company "to plan our mining operations in the most cost-effective way for some years to come".

The City welcomed the deal, sending RJB shares 5p higher



to 67p. "[The new contract] means they will be able to sup-years," one analyst said. port coal production at reason-

0 94 95 96 97 98 99

than 20 million tonnes over four

ably healthy levels through to 2003. It secures coal sales of more string of deals had wor RJB a welcome breathing space. They

said the company should use this to cut costs and expand overseas in order to bedge against the long-term decline of the UK coal market.

Sceptics doubt that internal restructuring and investment abroad will be enough to combat the problems of the UK coal industry. Domestic deep-mined coal is still far more expensive than imported material and gasfired electricity. The recentlyannounced government ban on the construction of gas-fired stations should help in the long term, but in the short run there is enough gas to wipe out another 12 million of coal demand.

These worries are all in RJB's share price, which has plummeted from a year's high of 139.5p. It is now on just five times 1999 earnings of about £28m. With the medium term looking more secure. RJB is

British Land secures lower financing costs

BRITISH LAND'S decision to issue a £1.54hn bond backed up by the income from its high quality London office development, Broadgate Centre, yesterday received an enthusiastic welcome in the City.

Analysts said the deal exploited the prestige value of Broadgate and the low interestrate climate, and said they expected to see competitors in the sector follow suit.

BY ANNA MINTON

-We've been recommending refinancing of debt in the sector since the end of last year. With low interest rates it makes huge sense for companies with high quality assets and tenants." a property analyst with

a leading investment bank said. Echoing analysts' sentiment.

confirmed that the group was John Atkins. "It's been received looking "very seriously" at the well by the market, with a 7p securitisation of debt - the jump on Monday. They're back issue of bigh-yield bonds backed by rental returns.

The British Land deal, announced on Monday was cited as an example of creative thinking in the sector, "It's a very good deal which underlines how financially astute Capital Shopping Centres British Land is," said Comfinance director, Tony Babcock, merzhank property analyst

at a similar level now, but there's no question this has been received anything but

The refinancing will reduce British Land's interest on its £1.2bn debt from 8.49 per cent to 7.4 per cent and is forecast to save the company £20m a year, However, securitisation

charge of £68m, to be paid by the company in the year ended March 1999. British Land finance director John Weston Smith said: "We've taken the 268m hit but in the long term. with the size of debt we have. this is cheap funding."

British Land shares, closing at 554p, trade at a similar discount to net asset value as its peers. They are worth buying.

A very humble **Enterprise**

ENTERPRISE AND Lasmo may have broken off merger talks, but that won't stop them playing football against each other. Not surprising really consid-

oil exploration companies have been talking to each other about a possible link-up for years. Just last month Enterprise beat Lasmo 41 in an enjoyable 11-a-side encounter at Enter-

prise's home ground at Battersea, London. An Enterprise spokesman modestly said that the scoreline did not reflect the game. "There were plenty of good chances on both sides. Perhaps we were

luckier in our finishing.

"We've been playing Lasmo ou and on for some time. We play a variety of companies - people like Abbey Life, Shell, Texaco."

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

By John WILLCOCK

Will they continue playing ering that the two independent Lasmo? "I do hope so," he says. And who were the goal scorers for Enterprise? "No names - we wouldn't want to appear arrogant," be replies. Perish the thought.

O'Neill's slogans Bank catches on

SO MIKE O'NEILL is not coming to take over Barciays after all. In an eerie coincidence a famous American surfer called the TV and radio yesterday Jack O'Neill coined the slogan: morning, it had not penetrated

become one of the US's biggest

sportswear magnates. Just so you know the surfer's other slogans were: "Snow is only frozen water" and: "It is always summer on the inside," whatever they may mean.

ALTHOUGH NEWS of Mike O'Neill's withdrawal from the Barclays job had been all over

when told the news at an othera chairman of Gartmore Fund wise jolly reception beld to launch a learned tome, "Payment Systems in Global Per-

Eddie George, the Governor, hosted the bash in the magnificent first floor ante-room of the Bank. Impressively, the 80a-day Governor was able to complete the session without once lighting a cigarette.

One of the book's co-authors, John Trundle, a former personal secretary to the Goveroor, explained: "It's because he's so excited about launching the book." A-ba.

Gartmore's loss

GARTMORE HAS dispensed with the services of Peter dovens of the fund manage-

Managers and most recently a senior manager to Gartmore's retail division, will not be replaced. Mr Pearson Lund joined Gartmore in 1985 after a long spell with Henderson.

A spokesman for Gartmore. which was bought by NatWest three years ago, said: "All companies evolve and change. There was no looger a role senior enough for a man of his experi-

Freeserve ace

DIXONS YESTERDAY appointed John Pluthero as chief executive of Freeserve, the company's free Internet service, following its decision on Monday to explore a float of the Pearson Lund, one of the division. Mr Pluthero launched and developed Freeserve.

E-moil: j.willcock@indepen

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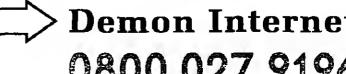
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SPORT

Hillsborough: Ten years ago tomorrow a Sheffield stadium witnessed the worst tragedy in British sporting history

The open gate that led to death

DY NICK HARRIS

LIVERPOOL AND Nottingham Forest travelled to Sheffield on 15 April 1989 to contest an FA Cup semi-final, just as they had done in the same competition in the same place the previous year. Under the headline "Welcome Back" in the match programme, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, Bert McGee, wrote: "As you look around Hillshorough you will appreciate why it has been regarded for so long as the venue for all kinds of important matches. It is a stadium that befits such occasions and the large crowds they attract." On the final page was the message: "Good luck to both teams, and have a safe journey bome." The events that day were to cost 96 people their lives.

It bad been a bright, sunny afternoon. Many of the 54,000 supporters arrived early and took their places in the allotted ends of the ground, the Forest fans primarily on the Spion Kop, and the bulk of the Liverpool fans in the West Stand at the Leppings Lane end. The prematch mood was later described in Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry into the disaster as "one of carnival, good humour and expectation".

The terraces of the Leppings Lane stand had only seven turnstiles to serve 10,000 ticket-holders. The first to arrive poured into pens No 3 and No 4 behind the goal, and the centre of the terrace quickly became congested. Just before 2.30pm, the number of people in Leppings Lane increased dramatically and suddenly there were 5.000 queuing to get in.

At 2.47pm, Supt Roger Marshall, in charge of the section, became concerned that those waiting outside were in danger of being crushed and he called for another entrance (gate C) to be opened. At 2.52pm Supt Marshall was granted permission by Chief Supt David Duckenfield, the man in overall charge of policing. Against the advice of stewards, 2,000 fans piled in. It was evident that there were problems, but calls by police inside the ground to delay the match went unanswered.

Once through the gate, the 2,000 found themselves in an open area, off which there was a 23-metre tunnel leading to pens No 3 and No 4. already packed full. No one in police control had told those inside that the rect the supporters to the less crowded flanks of the terrace. Lack of signs inside drew people into the tunnel and into the pens. The crushing in both the tunnel and the pens. already dangerous, intensified.

"People were walking on other people's heads to get out from the crusb," one supporter said the next day. "People were collapsing and people were trying to push others out of the way to belp those on the floor. People were being sick. People were shouting for belp to those at the front to open the gates to let them be dragged out but it seemed so slow in opening the gates."

At 2.54pm the teams came out and the crowd surged forward. In the tunnel to the pens, people were packed



A carpet of flowers dedicated to the Hillsborough dead covers the pitch at Anfield following the disaster which claimed 96 lives

one fan said. "He asked me to hold his bead in my arms. He said to me 'belp me' and then he just died in my arms." Behind them people were still coming in, stopping any retreat.

At 3pm the match kicked off and there was another surge at the front. Calls for the fencing to be pulled down were ignored and some supporters were pulled from the terrace by those in the stand above.

"The pressure stayed and for those crusbed breathless by it, standing or prone, life was ebbing away." said the report. Some started to climb over the high, spiked fences on to the perimeter track. On the pitch, Liverpool's Peter Beardsley hit the post at 3.04pm and there was another surge. "It was mainly

fencing. "I realised lt was serious when I saw one of the lasses standing near me just turn blue in the face. Sbe went down. She was dead. That was it." Lord Justice Taylor said later in his report: "It was truly gruesome. The victims were blue, cyanotic, incontinent; their mouths open,

vomiting; their eyes staring." Police in the control room thought the problem was crowd trouble and called for dog handlers from HQ. Such a decision seems barbaric now, but. 10 years ago, with boobganism still widespread and many football grounds inhospitable and menacing. they were not alone in their initial reaction. Closer to the pitch, Supt Roger Greenwood realised what was really happening and radioed for the failed he ran on to the pitch and told received their next advice, to bold the referee to get the players off. By 3.12pm, the perimeter fencing

was being pulled down with bare hands but it was too late. The dead and injured were carried away on advertising hoardings ripped down to serve as makeshift stretchers. The first ambulance arrived at Leppings Lane at 3.13pm, but access to the pitch was obstructed. Twenty minutes later, another ambulance tried to drive on to the pitch but the driver was told by a policeman: "You can't go on there, they're still fighting." Few in the ground had any

idea what was bappening. At 3.47pm Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, addressed the crowd, calling for co-operation with the police and the first-aid teams. It and a friend called at the house to say

so tightly they could not breathe. youngsters in front of me," said match to be stopped. When that was 20 minutes later that the crowd be had lost him in the confusion, on to their tickets. "The match will be abandoned," an announcer said.

> The bodies of the dead were taken to the makeshift mortuary in the Hillsborough gymnasium. There were harrowing scenes as unsympathetic and obstructive policemen denied relatives access to the bodies of their loved ones.

A number of relatives faced hours, and, in some cases, days of anxiety as they waited for information. Philip Hammond, aged 14, had gone to the game with friends. His father, Phil, saw events unfold on television and rang the coach company with whom his son was travelling. They assured him the coaches were returning full. but when Philip failed to come bome

Sheffield. Late on the Saturday night, a policeman called at the Hammond bouse and, seeing him, Phil said: "Don't tell me. He's dead." The policeman replied: "No, he's alive," and told Phil to phone a Sheffield number for information. At this point Brian arrived bome and broke the news that he bad already identified

his brother's body. The case was not isolated, and if the nightmare of the victims and their relatives had not been enough, the story that went around the world that night, courtesy of Chief Supt Duckenfield, was that the fans had brought the disaster on themselves by smashing down gate C. They had not, of course, but the truth

FA is supposed to be responsible for

all levels of the game but despite hav-

ing a keen parks player, the recently

deposed Graham Kelly, as chief

executive for the last decade they

THE DAYS AFTER THE DISASTER

Sunday 16 April 1989: Liverpool announce they will play no more games until the dead are buried. The FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, says more seats and less terracing are needed at football grounds. Sepp Blatter, then the general secretary and the now president of Fifa, says that until grounds are improved "the prospects of them [English clubs] playing again in Europe have

Monday 17: In Liverpool, the 2pm radio news starts with a roll call of the dead. The 94 names (later to rise to 96) takes 12 minutes to read. The FA says that the question of a replay lies in Liverpool's hands. Derby and Spurs start dismantling fencing at their grounds. Others contemplate doing the same. Arsenal cancel their Tuesday match against Wimbledon, against the will of the FA Tuesday 18: Lord Justice Taylor visits Hillsborough, Lee Nichol, aged 14, dies of his injuries in hospital to take the death toll to 95. Wednesday 19: The first bodies return to Liverpool. Southampten play the first First Division match since the disaster and draw 0-0 with Norwich. Manager Chris Nicholi says: "Winning and losing seems of bttle importance." The FA announces that Saturday's matches will start at 3.06pm. Thursday 20: After a day of de bate, Liverpool and Everton an

nounce they will pull down fencing at their grounds. Friday 21: The funerals of 14 victims take place in Liverpool. Queues at Anfield are half a mile long and it's estimated that 500,000 pilgrims have contributed

to the blanket of flowers and scarves on the pitch. Saturday 22: First Division matches (except Liverpool's garne with Arsenal) go ahcad Liverpool comes to a halt at 3.06pm for a minute's silence.

Sunday 23: John Barnes pulls out the England squad to face Albania to attend fans' funerals. Sunday 30: Liverpool play a friendly in Glasgow against Celtic, winning 4-0 and raising £350,000 for the Hillsborough fund and then announce they will play the FA Cup replay against Forest. (The game eventually takes place on Sunday 7 May. Dalglish's side run out 3-1 winners. They go on to win an all

Wednesday 3 May: Liverpool play their first competitive match since Hillsborough, against Everton at Goodison, in front of 45,000 people. The 0-0 scoreline is irrelevant. A banner in the Liverpool end reads: "The Kop thanks you all. We never walked alone."

Merseyside final 3-2).

Rich elite ignore the crisis at grassroots

The Taylor Report has benefited the game's leading clubs while the rest struggle to stay affoat despite a golden age. By Glenn Moore

JUST AS people of a certain age can remember where they were when John F Kennedy was assasinated, so football fans across Britain, whoever they support, remember the game they were at on the day of the Hillsborough tragedy.

More than any of the disasters of that benighted decade - the sinkings of The Marchioness and The Herald of Free Enterprise, the King's Cross fire, even the football tragedies of Bradford and Heysel - Hillsborough struck a chord. We had been there; we all knew it could easily have been us.

Like many fans I had stood on the away terrace at Leppings Lane; like most, I had been caught in a terrace crush. Mine was five years earlier at Blundell Park where, as at Hillsborough, fans who attempted to escape by climbing over the fences were initially met with police batons.

The fear that day soon subsided. Indeed, the inherent danger of terracing even added a sense of daring to the exhilarating feeling of weightlessness experienced when you were swept along in a surging crowd.

Hillsborough changed that. Just as Kennedy's death signalled a loss of innocence for the baby boom generation so football supporters who had always thought "it won't happen to me" had to accept it could. We had learned to live with hooliganism, partly because experienced supporters could spot trouble coming and avoid it. This was

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wider world as well. The process was slow, due to the lies put out by police and disseminated by The Sun, but football supporters gradually came to be seen as ordinary people who had been victims, not hooligans. The game also found a saviour in Lord Justice Taylor, whose report pushed a government congenitally opposed to the game into supporting it. The Membership Card Scheme, which could have crippled football, was abandoned in favour of diverting millions of pounds of betting tax money into rebuilding its stadiums.

When, on the back of Italia 90 and Gazza's tears, a new audience was attracted to the domestic game, they were not turned off by what they found. Rupert Murdoch was one of the first to realise this and, through his Sky satellite channel, both profited from

and accelerated the trend. The consequences are all around us. Literally. Even if you do not follow the game you are assailed by its images. Football sells everything from shampoo to burgers to satellite dishes to cars towatches. For devotees the game appears to be enjoying a golden age. Players such as Dennis Bergkamp and Gianfranco Zola light up swisb grounds, watched by capacity crowds drawn from across classes and genders. England may have wobbled under Glenn Hoddle but the Premiership, which has semifinalists in two European competitions, is avidly followed from Australia Fortunately for the game, axi its to Norway Multinational companies, followers, perceptions changed in the not content with scrambling to spon-

sor players, competition and clubs, seek to buy the latter.

Which is where doubts emerge. Last week's ruling that prevented BSkyB taking over Manchester United was as welcome as it was unexpected but the trend is unlikely to be reversed. The top end of the game is moving away from its bedrock support both in terms of people and structure.

Working class supporters, the young men who sustained the game during its years of decline, are being priced out at the turnstile. Lower

which gives the sport a stake in every

During the seven months in which

BSkyB pursued its £623m bid for

United, two clubs, Portsmouth and

Crystal Palace, went into adminis-

tration while Luton called in the re-

ceivers. They joined Chester, who have

been in administration since the start

of the season, and follow Gillingham,

Bournemouth, Exeter, Northampton,

Barnet and Millwall, who have had

. **D**

community, are being cut adrift.

similar experiences - and survived within the past four years.

Television and sponsorship income may have marginally increased in recent years but the rise is dwarfed by the knock-on effect of the Premiership's escalating wages. Most lower di-vision clubs are being kept afloat by generous chairmen or transfer sales though these, too, have declined post-Bosman due to the import of cheap foreigners and players' right to a free transfer once their contract is up.

One of the most pathetic illustradivision clubs, the countrywide fabric tions of this poverty came at Black-

'Working class supporters are being priced out at the turnstile. Lower

division clubs, the countrywide fabric of the sport, are being cut adrift'

employee had to return a £5 pack of

polystyrene cups because there was

not enough money in the petty cash.

Meanwhile, Robbie Fowler can prob-

ably afford to pay the £60,000 fine be

received from the Football Association

last week from his current account.

benefited from the Government's

post-Hillsborough largess. The pri-

ority, following the Taylor Report,

TOMORROW

Glenn Moore on the way ahead for football, 10 years after Hillsborough

Nick Harris on the lasting impact of the Taylor Report

Nor have the bulk of these clubs

pool a few weeks ago when an dwindled dramatically. This is due to

was the reconstruction of grounds in the top two English divisions and the Scottish Premier and the bulk of the £120m initial investment went into improving already large and reasonably impressive grounds. Arsenal, Chelsea, Leeds, Liverpool and Tottenham all received around £2m while Manchester United were granted £1.4m. just over a 10th of the money they

Now clubs outside the elite are trying to develop, or move from, their often inadequate grounds the money available to the Football Trust has

the impact of the National Lottery on

the football pools, from which the Trust

agreed to give £20m to the Trust after

agreeing the latest TV deal in 1997. To-

gether with £20m offered to assist

youth development at League clubs

this left the 20 Premiership clubs to

struggle on with the remaining £703m.

Meanwhile, down at the real grass-

The Premier League belatedly

receives its income.

appear to have largely ignored this area. From the £50m the FA receives each year from commercial activities, TV rights and international matches invested in Dwight Yorke this season. it allocates less than £2m to football being played by the 44,000 affiliated clubs from the Vauxhall Conference down to Sunday morning leagues.

There is FA investment outside the ofessional game but most of it goes on the elite of the future, promising youth players. The upkeep of changing-rooms and pitches for the amateur is left to local councils, who have more urgent funding priorities, or the players themselves. This is utterly inadequate. At least the Football Trust, whose funding crisis has been eased assistance from the FA. Professional Footballers' Association and government, intends to look at this area once they have helped the lower

divisions fulfil Taylor's requirements. When players have finished paying to play, they have to pay increasing sums to watch the professionals. Despite the Taylor Report's clear request that clubs should not take advantage of the move to seating to increase prices most have, to extortionate levels. The cheapest seat at Chelsea is £22 (uncovered) while it can even cost

£16 to watch Second Division football, Meanwhile, in the directors' box, the game's fat cats count fortunes which

pers. The likes of Sir John and Douglas Hall (Newcastle), David Dein (Arsenal), Doug Ellis (Aston Villa), Ken Bates (Chelsea), Alan Sugar (Spurs), Peter Johnson (Everton) and others have made actual or paper fortunes from the game but all are cast in shadow by Martin Edwards. The Manchester United chairman has realised £33m on his original £600,000 investment and still has 14 per cent of shares,

estimated worth £62m, to sell. A golden age? For these men it comes platinum-coated and dismond-studded. And yet, if television lost interest, which it might if hooliganism returned, or fashions moved on (already the sales of replica shirts, abarometer of the game's popularity, are falling) the sport would be in trouble. There are a lot of clubs locked into long-term, high-wage contracts. While money is flooding into the game football should invest it, not dish it out to rapacious players and agents, or allow it to be salted away into directors' offshore bank

It should also have used its riches to look after its own: the way the game has stood by while the Hillsborough families have fought to be beard is

positions of influence putting the wider interests of the game before their own. While there are bonourable exceptions it is clear that

roots, the picture is even worse. The make even the players look like pau-

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accounts. nothing short of a disgrace.

This, however, involves people in this is unlikely. Coercion may be resporting histon

THE INDEPENDENT

THE DAYS AFTER THE DISASTER

Sunday 16 April 1989; Livery, 25 mountee they will play to use the dead are borst the FAS chief executive Control The FAS Chief executive Grace The tra court concurrence the last section to the remacing are needed at both Scounds Sepp Blatter that Economy Secretary, and the m president of Fila says that the Stortics sie imbtored & or scac's or them | English due planting again in Europe las

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that take place in Liverpool

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Lancashtre v Sussex OLD TRAFFORD: (Day 1 of 4) No play yesterday due to rain.

Another Ronaldo, another world

LUIS FELIPE POSSO chooses his words carefully when asked Since Ronaldo's startling performance in Berlin last Septo describe the experience of tember, when be ran 2hr 06min managing the world's fastest 05sec to lower the 10-year-old marathon runner. "He's a chalworld marathon record by 45 lenge," be says. Eventually. seconds, he has attracted the The man of whom he speaks, kind of attention more usually accorded to his Brazilian foot-Ronaldo da Costa, is smiling

compliantly for a photographer balling namesake. who appears to be taking the His success, in what was same shot, again and again. The only his second marathon, lifted Brazil's sporting morale in the smile does not fade - it never does, according to Posso, who wake of their disappointment at has guided the fortunes of the the World Cup finals 10 weeks Brazilian for the last seven

years. He makes no secret of Ronaldo - whose own local the fact that he wishes the 28league footballing career was year-old from Descoberto hampered by the fact that he was would spend less time accomalways put in goal - was joined modating the wishes of others. in Berlin by two Brazilian TV and more time concentrating crews. They escorted him back to his home country, where his

The Brazilian who has set new standards runs in the London Marathon on Sunday, By Mike Rowbottom

waiting to take him back to his home town, 100 miles north of Rio, where he grew up in a fam- to San Diego. ily of 12 children. There he was paraded through the streets before the party began,

"Since September, Ronaldo has been besieged," Posso said. He has been to Monaco and Lanzarote to make media appearances, lie has been to Italy for his shoe company. When he goes back home, fans come to his house, driving from Rio for him for money. He cannot get

picture appeared everywhere in away. The television people the media. A helicopter was even found out he was preparing back home before this race when he had said he was going

> "I try to tell him there are too many distractions to his training," Posso said, "But he doesn't always listen." Posso tooks after the for-

tunes of some of the world's finest marathon runners. Apart from Ronaldo, he manages Dionicio Ceron, the London winner from 1994-1996. Antonio Pinto, the winner in 1992 and autographs. Some simply ask 1997, and the Olympic champion, Josia Thugwane.

For him, they fall into two categories. "Ceron and Pinto." be says. "they are talented hard workers. Thugwane and Ronaldo - they don't need to work bard."

How far both men can travel on talent will become evident on Sunday, when both contest the Flora London Marathon as part of what is, arguably, the strongest field ever assembled.

Ronald was in good humour vesterday as he discussed his prospects. "It's difficult to talk about running 2hr 06min now. temperature of 36 degrees to

difference. But I am in the the Berlin race seven months same form as I was before Berlin last year. There are some very good runners here. the week before the race," he so we will have to see what hap-

While his manager frets. however, Ronaldo maintains he feels no particular weight of expectation after taking over the world best mark from Belayneh Dinsamo.

"It seems like it was only yesterday," ne said. "There is no pressure for me."

He shrugged off his relatively poor showing in the Lis-Half-Marathon three weeks ago, where be finished because I have come from a 19th in 64min 43 sec - more than three minutes slower than

five degrees, which is quite a his time for the second half of

"I had run 180 kilometres in said. "I feel much better now I have rested properly."

Levity comes naturally to Ronaldo - asked yesterday if he prepared in any special way for a race, he replied with a wide grin: "Sex".

But he indicated his personal determination back in 1992 when be funded his own journey from Brazil to Florida. where he asked Posso to manage him

He repaid Posso's confidence in him by winning a world half-marathon bronze in 1994, and recorded a highly



Ronaldo: New-found fame

creditable 2:09:57 in his first marathon, the 1997 race in

A year later, on the same flat course, creditable became incredible as Ronaldo rounded off a stupendous performance with an exuberant double cartwbeel. The London organisers are boping that what goes

The Leicestershire slip cordon and wicketkeeper James Whitaker (right), begin the defence of the County Championship against Essex at Chelmsford yesterday

Prichard puts past woes behind him

THE RUNS did not exactly flood in for Paul Prichard but. between the showers of hail and rain which enveloped the at Chelmsford County Ground, the former Essex captain put behind him the misery of last season when every innings was an unhappy outing and ground his way to within a couple of blows of what should be his first half-century

for the best part of 18 months. Prichard had the most appalling run of form in 1998 since they contrived to finish first-class runs to his name.

Oval spluttered reluctantly into

something resembling life for

another season yesterday after

more than half a day's play was

lost to a combination of tor-

rential downpours, thunder and

lightning, hail storms and April

start to this summer's pro-

ceedings, the inclement weath-

er might have been

interpreted as an almighty

sign of disapproval. As it was,

wben the game finally got

going in earnest after the play-

ers had taken an early tea, a

biting gale kept Gloucester-

Given the inordinately early

FIRST-CLASS cricket at The BY ADAM SZRETER

CRICKET BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

Essex 91-2 v Leicestershire

at The Oval

reason.

Surrey 124-0 v

Gloucestershire

quent appearance by the beavy

bails - painted black for some

by choice, Mark Alleyne per-

haps fearing for the batsmen's

The visitors were in the field

bottom of the beap). His highest score in the Championship was 24 and he finished the season by giving up the captaincy to Nasser Hussain and an av-

concentration Prichard negotiated each stoppage, the fourth was the final one, as if it were but a brief pause. And considering he was up against Leicestershire, the defending champions, it was all

the more meritorious. It was not plain sailing. Far from it. Mike Kasprowicz - an Essex old boy, albeit of just one season in 1994 - created plenty erage of 13, hardly worthy of a of waves and frequently beat (so, as it happens, did Essex man with more than 15,000 the bat early on as Prichard around, took a comfortable and his opening partner, catch.

Butcher played fluently from

the start. A couple of dubious de-

cisions to leave balls that went

perilously close to his off stump

and a near run-out after a mis-

understanding with Ward were

the only blemisbes in a half cen-

tury of sweetly timed strokes.

Surrey and preferred to the

Ward, in his second spell at

ing by tonight.

As a measure of his level of Darren Robinson, struggled yesterday to find their bearings.

At times, given the light, that was understandable, Robinson looked the uneasier of the pair and it was no surprise when. having reached a scratchy 13, he finally succumbed. Chris Lewis, who was looking venomous at times from the River End, got the Essex man on to the back foot and found an edge high up the bat. Paul Nixon. one of the most underrated wicketkeepers

vey's spell of medium pace

suggested that Courtney Walsh

will indeed be badty missed as

their overseas player. The Vic-

torian all-rounder at least has

another string to his bow. at-

though he might have to wait a while tonger to use it.

Dean Headley made the most

of gloomy conditions to give

Kent an early breakthrough

lan Flanagan, still only 18. tune to concede what appeared sank without trace, his third ball rapping his pad when he was barely forward to give Kasprowicz a deserved wicket.

Flanagan's departure set up an Intriguing confrontation. since it brought Stuart Law to the crease. He is Kasprowicz's Queensland captain, but there was no sign of cobbership. Law took two runs off the

burly fast bowler then survived a confident bellow for legbefore. A ball or so later and Kasprowicz had the misfor-

Cup contracts were given a

good airing.

looked at again.

to be an inadvertent boundary. one that squirted over the ropes at third man.

Gradually, though, the batsmen's confidence grew. Prichard, having passed his 1998 mark. let rip with boundaries, first off Lewis, then James Ormond, and they sandwiched a far more confident brace from Law off Kasprowicz, the first a fine, fine

glance, the second a delicate cut. Ormond only lasted a couple of overs from the River End before it was decided that

fective with the wind somewhere behind him. In the event be did not get on. As James Whitaker - back in charge of problems - juggled things around to effect the change of ends, a combination of a Lewis maiden from the River End and some beavy black clouds brought a premature close to

be would probably be more ef-

the side after virtually a year out following long-term knee proceedings. It was a day when more than 73 overs were lost

Stewart's men state case for more cash

Under-achievers of Sharjah are forced to negotiate from a position of weakness. By Derek Pringle

against Middlesex at Lords in concentration on a day of inmore experienced Darren losses and a row over conthe Championship vesterday evitable interruption. But Mark Bicknell was more circumtracts have turned their Shar-Butcher, who will captain Surspect to begin with but grew in on a day reduced to 10.1 overs jah sojourn into a war of wills rey while Adam Hollioake reconfidence, bringing up both the by bad weather. Headley rebetween them and their emmains on World Cup duty, and ployers, the England and Wales 50 and the 100 partnership with moved Mike Roseberry for six his opening partner, Ian Ward, beautifully executed cover as the home side struggled to 16 Cricket Board. drives off Jon Lewis. for t at the close. Justin Langer made light of the awkward cirshire hands firmly in pockets curnstances and if it turns out There was precious little was unbeaten on 10 and Mark

kicking himself with some feel-tershire's bowlers and lan Har-

and prompted an all too infre- fine today Alleyne might be encouragement for Glouces-CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Ramprakash had yet to score. vey 8-4-21-0, M W Alleyne 7-3-16-0, M C J Bas 5-1-14-0

Other Match

Umpires: B Dutleston and J F Steele

Nottinghamshire v Cambridge Univ TRENT BRIDGE (Day 2 of 3): Cambridge University have scored 209 for S wickets agalest Notting-

ambridge University metrics . CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - First Innings Overnigh 209-S (Halsali 55)

Umpires: P Carrick and O I Constant No play yesterday due to rafe.

Today's fixtures [11 00 unless state!]

PPP HEALTHCARE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (lirst day of four) Edgbaston: Warran kalme w Northamptonshife (Second day of Yourt Riverside: Durham v Worcestershire. Chelmsford: Esser . Leicestershire, Old Trafford: Lancashire v Susser. Lord's: Middleses v Kent The Oval: Surry v

OTHER MATCHES (day I of 3) The Parks: Colors University v Hampshire [11 30], (day 3 of 5) Trent Bridge: Notilinghamshire v Cambridge University

IT WAS meant to be a trip of resolution for England's World unlikely. The players will sign, Cup squad, but three straight but only grudgingly.

miet it seems, has been the disparity between what players were paid for a one-off tournament in Bangladesb last Octo-Within an hour of winning ber (28,000), and what they are being offered for the first stage their final match against Pakof the World Cup (believed to be istan, Alec Stewart and his squad met behind closed doors about £5,000).

The logic, if that is the right with Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the ECB, and David term, is that England will play Acfield, a non-executive memfive matches in stage one, as opber of the management board. posed to the single game played The meeting, which went in Bangladesh. Taken to its exon well into the early hours of treme the players argument is that if most other professions the morning, did not pull its verbal punches and players' grievcharge by the minute, why shouldn't they:

ances over the current World In some ways the spat has united the players though, judging by the performances on the Despite the passion - Darren Gough apparently gave field, it is their employers rather than their opponents, an Olivier-class performance it is thought that no more who have borne the brunt. As money is to be put on the a general rule sportsmen have no bargaining power without retable. Instead some of the finc detail, such as compulsory sults and when the West Indies downed tools to get a better pay travel by team coach and the chance to take some time off settlement it was before, not after, their disastrous tour of to see their families, will be South Africa.

England's cricket here has As sweeteners go, it is hardin the buff-envelope-on-amainly been shoddy and condraughty-motorway-services fused. The poor batting form of class sn beloved of old-school Slewart, as well as his stodgy captaincy, has not helped matfuotball managers, and the

sound of 15 pens suddenly ink- ters. Comfortably outmanoeuing the dotted line in unison is vred by his opposite numbers in the first two games, it was only in the final two matches One of the sources of disthat be showed any flair by keeping men up in run-saving

positions. If that was an improvement, he has two County Championship matches and two National League matches to find some touch before the World Cup squad assemble at Canterbury on 2 May.

On the positive side England must be happy that Graham Thorpe and Neil Fairbrother came through Sbarjah without stirring up their old injuries. Both the left-handers scored runs, too, though their final positions in the order, like the batting tacbics in the first 15 overs, appear

undecided. England also have a clearer picture of what Andrew Flintoff and Angus Fraser have to offer. Before this trip neither would have been thought of as definite first-choice material. Yet Flintoff's power and exuberance, as well as Fraser's oldfashioned virtues of line and length, have made both compulsory selections. Providing the others can emulate them, and contracts are signed, England may yet prove a force in

the World Cup.

around comes around. **Broncos'** Cup final appeal to **Branson**

RUGBY LEAGUES BY DAVE HADFIELD

THE LONDON BRONCOS are appealing to the most recognisable club chairman in the game, Richard Branson, to have a change of beart and lead them out at Wembley:

Branson, whose Virgin group owns the club, has expressed a reluctance to muscle in on the big day, but the Broncos' chief executive, Tony Rea, is trying to persuade him to take centre stage for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final on 1 May. "He says it's the team's day, but the team wants bim to lead them out and I think he will," Rea said.

Rea was due to talk today to Branson, who is out of the country, to pass on the players' request that he should precede them out of the Wembley tunnel on the last time it will figure in a rugby league final. "Just from the point of view of the profile of the club, it would be a

great thing for us," Rea added. The Broncos stand-off, Karle Hammond, who has played twice at Wembley for St Helens, agreed. "It can only help the club from a publicity point of view if be leads us out for the

final," he said. Lionel Hurst, the chairman of the Rugby League Conference, which is made up of teams from outside the game's beartland, said that London reaching the final would significantly enhance its national

credentials. "Their win in the semi-final at Headingley will be seen as pivotal in rugby league's growth, not just in Britain but around the world." be said at the launch of the second season of the Conference yesterday.

The Broncos, whose second row forward, Dominic Peters, played for West London in the competition last year, are among the biggest supporters of the Conference. "It is not a question of what we can do for them or what they can do for us. but about the combined strength of the two," Rea said. We are going to give a great performance at Wembley and give rugby league in the south something to be proud of."

There is evidence of further interaction between the Conference and the professional game in the staging of their pre-liminary grand finals as curtainraisers before Super League matches this summer.

The final eliminator for clubs in the south and east sections will be before the London v Salford game on 7 August, while teams from the north and east will play before Warrington meet St Helens on 15 August. The Grand Final is to be held at the New River Stadium, home of the London Skolars, on the 21 August.

The Conference, which begins its season on 8 May. includes six new teams this year and also has most of its clubs fielding junior outfits. "We are putting our best people into the junior sides, because that's where our future lies," Hurst said.

Bradford Bulls' Henry and Robbie Paul have been named in the New Zealand team for the Anzac Day Test against Australia at Sydney's Olympic Stadium on Friday, 23 April. The brothers were automatic selections after belging the Kiwis to a historic series tri-

umpb on British soil last year. The Paul brothers will fly out to Sydney after the Bulls' Super League game at Warrington on Sunday and will miss their club's match against Halifax a week later

PPP Heaithcare County Championship

Durham v Worcestershire RIVERSIDE: (Day 1 of 4) No play yesterday due to snow

Essex v Leicestershire CHILDESFORD (Day 1 of 4): Essex have scored 91 for 2 wickets age

P J Prichard not out...

Esser won toss ESSEX — First incings

O D J Robinson c Noron to Lewis .. 13 0 1 56 309 (N Flanagan Row b Kasprowicz 0 S G Law not out... Total (for 2, 30,2 overs)91 Fell: 1-40, 2-45. To Balt: "R C Irani, A P Grayson, 5 O Peters, 1R J Rollins, A P Cowan, M C llott, P M Such.

Bowling: M S Kasprowicz 14-4-39-1, C C Lewis 13.2-3-36-1, J Ormond 2-0-8-0, J M Dakin 1-0-4-0.

Despires: R Julian and R Palmes.

Middlesex v Kent LORD'S (Day 1 of 4): Middle Keni won toss

Surrey shine amid the showers

NEDOLESEX — First Isolnes MR Ramprakash not out 0 0 0 3 15

Total (for 1, 10.1 overs)16 Felt 1-8. To Batz R A Kettleborough, O A Shah, P N Weekes, 10 C Nast, J P Hewitt, S J Cook, R L Johnson, P C R Tufnell.
Bowling: 0 W Headley 5.1-1-13-1, J B Thompson 5-2-3-

Surrey v Gloucestershire THE POSTER'S OVAL (Day 1 of 4): Surrey have score 124 for no wickets again Gloucestershire won toss SURREY — First loologs M A Butcher not out.

To Bat: J O Rapcliffe, N Shahid, A O Brown, B C Hollicake

t) N Barry, G P Butcher, A J Tudor, I O K Salisbury, M P

ding: A M Smith 13-3-36-0, J Lewis 14-6-37-0, I J Har-

Total (for 0, 47 overs)124

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Veteran who has defied the years

WHEN A National Hunt jockey reaches the age of 35 a large claw usually descends to take him to the place of rest for winter riders. Not so Graham John Bradley, who will be 39 this year and still shows no signs of withering apart from the spreading grey stains at his temples.

They call him Brad in the weighing-room, but it could just as well be Dad. The Yorkshireman is hugely popular with his colleagues, even those who are just about young enough to be his offspring.

Bradley was born in Wetherhy and still pledges allegiance to his local football team of note, Leeds United. You could not tell this from his wood-splitting accent, but the jockey has now been down south for some time. ploughing his furrow from one of Britain's richest racing vales. He lives in Sparsholt, oear Wantage, but takes most of his liquid refreshment in the Queen's Arms at East Garston.

He is also a smoker and last week, when an arm injury sustained in the Irish Grand National looked like preventing him from riding in the Aintree original, he described the limb as heing so painful that he could barely lift a fag to his mouth.

Brad is recognised by friend and foe as one of the great riding stylists. When this technically proficient horseman is in the saddle he casts virtually the same silhouette as Richard Dunwoody.

The jockey who was yesterday charged with conspiring to cheat has won some of racing's greatest

prizes. By Richard Edmondson

rections. Bradley is the best neat as the freshman. golfer in the weighing room, with a single-figure handicap. That is not the the only figure in 1980 gave us the chance for in which the jockey is interested. In the highly-sexed atmosphere of his sport the lads talk about the old fox being a great

Bradley is the son of Norman, a trainer who plied his trade from near Wetherby at Sicklinghall. The young lad's talents were soon apparent and even as a fledgling rider he was inducted into the finest racing academy in the land, the Harewood base of the all-conquering Dickinson family.

There were more experienced jockeys in this great finishing school and stronger ones

Grand National: Runner-up on

BIG RACE WINNERS

Che)tenham Gold Cup: Bregawn

Born: B September, 1960.

rode 53 winners

He causes eavy in other di- too. Nooe, however, were as

The man who rode his first winner on Talon at Sedgefield comparison with his workmates when he led home Dickinsoo's Famous Five in the 1983 Cheltenham Gold Cup on Bregawn. He was just 22.

Bradley's has not been B career of great numbers, rather of victories in just about all the major races. His best season was the 1986/87 campaign. when he recorded 53 winners.

The Cheltenham Festival's other great race, the Champion Hurdle, fell to him quite fortuitously on Collier Bay in 1996. Not lucky because of any fluke in the running of the race, but because Bradley was not due to

BRADLEY'S GLORY DAYS Champion Hurdle winner: Collie First winner: Talon at Sedgefield on Bay (1996). Hennessy Gold Cup: Bregawn (1982) & Suny Bay (1997). King George VI Chase: Waywar

> Irish Grand National: Rhyme 'N Welsh National: Righthand Man (1984) & Stearsby (1986).

Lad (1985).

be on Collier Bay at all. He had been scheduled to partner the hig-race favourite. Alderbrook. hut was removed from that posting when his alarm clock failed to wake him in time for the gelding's final piece of work.

And when Morley Street was kidded home in the Aintree Hurdle at the beginning of the decade Bradley's was acknowledged as the ride of that particular season.

Two years ago we almost lost his talent when the rides dried up and took the enthusiasm with them. Bradley was rescued by the Upper Lambourn trainer Charlie Brooks, who was himself questioned in connection with the race-fixing allegations before being released without charge at Charing Cross police station vesterday.

Between them this unlikely partnership of a jockey older than his trainer won prestigious races, but none was more notable than a runner-up placing a year ago, when Bradley and Suny Bay slogged through a Grand National quagmire to beat all bar Earth Summit.

The partnership completed the Liverpool course once again on Saturday, further cementing Suny Bay's place as one of the favourite conveyances of Graham Bradley.

Another great friend, and he will be ansused at the irony of it considering his present position, is the name of his King George VI winner, a horse called Wayward Lad.



Graham Bradley takes the Cheltenham acclaim on his 1996 Champion Hurdle winner, Collier Bay

lengthy ban if found to be in breach of the latest whip guidelines at an inquiry of the Jockey Club's Disciplinary Committee this morning.

Portman Square by the Aintree stewards over his use of the whip on Juyush, pulled up behind Istabraq in the Aintree

1 March this year, any jockey found to be in breach of the rules in a Grade or Group One race is automatically referred to the Jockey Club.

tee also find the jockey in Prix Kergorlay.

for a minimum of 10 days. They will also have the flex-

ibility to choose on which days the suspensioo should apply, although it is anticipated that this power will be used only in exceptional circumstances. Murphy is the first jockey to

be thus referred to the stewards of the Jockey Club for use of the whip in a Grade One race. Tajoun repeated his 1998 success in the Listed Prix Right Royal on his reappearance at Maisons-Laffitte yesterday. The Aga Khan stayer's only defeat of last seasoo was inflicted by the British pair, Arctic Owl and

Grey Shot, in the Group Two

RESULTS

FOLKESTONE Going: Soft [Good To Soft in places] 1.45: 1. PUSSY GALORE (A Daly) 9-2; 2. Green God 7-1; 3. Full Spate 4-1 10 ren.

5-2 tay Wars, 174, 1/b. (D. Baworth, Whit-combe), Tota: £550; £240, £270, £110. DF: £2290. CSF: £3490. 2.15: 1. TINKER OSMASTON (J. Savege) 7-1; 2. Whatta Madant 14-1; 3. Dryad 11-2 tay: 4. Polish Spirit 10-1, 16 ran, 11/b, 21/b. (R. Hodges, Somerton), Tota: £880; £320. £450, £190, £200. DF: £4650. CSF: £8887. Ticastr. £53797. 2.45: 1. EASTERN TRUMPETER IK DU-

2.45: 1. EASTERN TRUMPETER (K Ourley) 5-1; 2. Landican Lane 11-4 for, 3. Weetrahr 12-1, 12 ran. 1/4, 1/4, 1/4 Bradley, Chepstow), Totes £380; £170; £170, £3 3.55: 1. MUKASOL (R Firench) 5-1; 2. Mr Perry 33-1; 3. Swing Along 4-1, 10 run. Evens fav Desert Duke, 5n-hd, 3%, (L Cumani, Newmarkel), Totes 5510; 5190, 2980, 510, DF: 514450, CSF: 514372, 4.25: 1. WONTCOSTALOTBUT (S With-worth) 5-1; 2. Purplus 6-1; 3. Vietnes 6-1

4.25: 1. WONTCOSTALDTBUT (S Whitworth) 6-1; 2. Durham 6-1; 3. Tulcano 44-1 12 ren. 4-1 fav Doc Ryam's (Sth). 17, sh-hd. (M Wikmson, Banbury). Tote: £720; £130, £250. £970. DF: £3130. CSF; £42.71. Tricast: £46559. NF: Patauk. Philosophic, Private Fature. Shiring Dancer. 4.55: 1. APRIL STOCK (S Sanders) evens fax; 2. Pacasers 7-2; 3. Ravenwood Lady 8-1. 14 ren. 3½. 1½. (Mass Gay Kelloway, Lingfield). Tote: £150; £120. £120, £340. DF: £280. CSF: £467. NFI: Quickstep 5.30: 1. FOXES TAIL. (S Drowne) 5-1; 2. Sweet Reward (D-1; 3. Zahle 9-4 fax. 13 ran. 3½. nk. (R Hodges, Someton). Tote: £820; £370, £300, £100. DF: £280. CSF: £8807. Tricast: £13848. NFI: Bever, Burning, Placepot: £140,50. Quadpot: £5180. Place 6: £200.37. Place 9: £100.74.

Gong: Good To Soft 2.25: 1. ATLANTIC MIST (T O'Connor) 9-1; 2. Keep file in Mind 20-1; 3. Murray's Mil-lion 13-2. 14 ran. 5-1 fav Northern Druns. 7, 3. (6 R Milman). Tole: 1955; 5220, 5550, 5220. DF: \$10140. CSF: \$163.65. Tricast

2.55: 1. KENTISH BARO (C Llewellyn) 3-1 tar; 2. Crooketsome 3-1; 3. Primitive Star 10-1; 18 ran, 3, 8. (N. Gaselee). Tobe: 23,90; 19-90. £226. £270. DF: £2850. CSF: £28,72. 3.30: 1. NORMARANGE IS Burrough) 12-1; 2. Ambieside 4-1; 3. Mr. Playfull 14-1, 10 ran, 5-2 tav Native Charm [4th], NA, 4. (P Rodford). Tote: £2180; £380. £190. £180. DF: £33,70. CSF: £55,84. Tricast: £28,220. 4,05: 1. NORMANDIC (R Widger) 2-1 tav; 2. Joy Por Life 12-1; 3. Bally Lira 14-1, 13 ran, 9, 10. (P Hobbs). Tote: £250; £140, £300. £340. DF: £2140. CSF: £2218. Tricast: £33,36. NR: Fancy Nancy, The Campdonian.

4.35: 1. WALTER'S DESTINY (Sophie 4.35: 1. WALTER'S DESTINY (Sophie Mitchell 13-2;2. Sumise Special 6-1; 3. Dan-ing King 16-1 13 ran, 11-2 ji tava Snow Board, Supreme Genotin, 4, 1 (C Mitchell, Tote: 6550: £180, £280, £570, DF: £2450. CSF: 8158. Tricast: ESS-15.
S.05: 1. LORD OF THE PLIES (M Betchelor) 14-1; 2. Jelb 3-1 fav; 3. Falcon Ridge
10-1: 4. Sandoran 12-1 f8 ran. 1/4, 1/4, (MesH Kright), Yote: E3470; E390, E190, E770,
E270. DF: E8510. CSF: £6339. Tricast:
245698.

5.35: 1. KELLYS CONQUEST (A Bates) 7-2; 2. Ross Minster 12-1; 3. Hardiy 4-6 fav. 18 ran. 13, 5 (J Mulins) Toter 6390; 5130, 5240, 5120. DF: 65580 GSF: 54327. Place 6: 2596.73 Place 6: £155.53

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CHELTENHAM

2.20 Relkander 2.55 GIGI BEACH (nap) 3.30 Wilmott's Fancy

4.35 Dictum 5.10 Edwarda

題 Leit-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in of 240yd 題 Course is Im N of lown off A435, Bus link from Chellenham rail station (served by Brasic, Burmingham and London Paddinghan, 2m, ADMISSION: Chu & Tartersalla combined 512 (juriors, 16-24 years, £9); Gourage Enclosure £5 CAR PARIC Free, Im LeADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 47-341 (123***), O Nicholson 34-340 (142***), N Twiston-Davies 22-228 (96**), J Gifford 16-119 (134***), O Nicholson 34-340 (142**), N Twiston-Davies 22-228 (96**), J Gifford 16-119 (134**), Im Utiliamson 39-187 (203**), R Dunwoody 32-20 (142**), M A Fitzgerald 23-176**, N Williamson 39-187 (203**), R Dunwoody 32-20 (142**), M A Fitzgerald 23-176** (131**), Im Leading 16-18** (148**), M A Fitzgerald 23-176** (131**), Raincheck (220), BLINKERED FIRST TIME; Nelly Mag (220); Parahandy (255); Shadinwan (405)

2.20 LYNX EXPRESS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE C4

Identified the Georgia of the Control of the Contro

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Reagenesque: Flurning moderately since bearing Kety Mac 2 lengths from 4th lower at Lexester (2m4) heap, soft in Feb. Difficult to fancy

Montroe: Progressive and reliable; best Woodlands Beau 11/4 lengths at Folkestone (2m2) now, good) on latest start, but has been done no taxours at the weights. Act in Time: Smart 2nd to Looks Like Trouble at Sandown off this handicap mark before lading when 23 lengths 5th of 21 to Decaydee here thin amat, good). Every chance Zaitoon: Consistent sort whose it lengths 2nd to Brother Of Iris at Doncaster (3m hoap, good to soft) off this mark is working out, 75-day absence a condern Cardiac Arrest! Yet to fulfil promise of 9 lengths 2nd to Trialdo at Stratford in Dec. pulling up after travelling well in good company at both Lexester and Ascot Specialize: 15-length winner from Dovetto at Untoxeter following decearer afforts in low-grade handicaps. Likely to find things lough under 5th penalty in the better company Pride Of Kesthmir: Easy early-season Plumpton winner from 10th lower in handicap ratings and later placed off the mark, but little spande on comeback last month. ratings and later placed off this mark, but little sparide on comeback last month Ratischeric Pomillo-point and Folkestone hunter chase winner last term. Little appeal Mir Jervis: Winner of modest Fontwell novice in January. Dropped 2to since latest 29 lengths 3rd to in The Blood over same course, but that hardly looks sufficient Grate Deet Should find this thip locate after fating to get 3m at Doncaster and Wedter-by, but will be pressed to reverse latest running with Santa Jet even on 5to better forms Santa Jets Runner-up 5 times before beasing Grate Deet 27 lengths at Wetherby (Sin22 hoap, good). Possibly flattered by latest effort (previously looked exposed) Head For Heaven: Portived scorer from Smart Guy last month and well in here on subsequent 27 lengths 4th to Native Charm at Sandown, but tell at Puription latest. Relituarder: Not really living up to promise of early-season Lecester win over Charn-ing Grt. West enough handicapped, but jumping could be a problem on this stiff course Clod Hopper: Will need something better than tatest 3 lengths 3rd of 8 to Doverto at Cheptow (2m31 hoap, good to soff) to take a hand. Keltly Mac: Yet to build on tar 3rd to Perryman at Asoci a year ago. Einkered first time after sense of placings in modest company but makes title appeal. Tirloy Gale: First form when 21 lengths 3rd of 7 to Cheerful Aspect in strong Warwick 2m41 nov chase (good) latest. Well resided on that form and could be each way value Charry Orchids: No obvious chance from 18th out of the handicap.

VERDICT: These tences hold no terrors for ACT IN TIME, who turned in an fine dis-play to be 5th to Desaydee in the National Hunt Chase last month and looks on a empting mark on his previous Sandown form Tirley Gale is an interesting prospect on his Warwick effort and is open to considerable inconvenient.

2.55 GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £12,000 3m 2f 110yds Penalty Value £8,247 PS3-PP FATHER SKY (F37) (C) (D) (Kenneth konneth O Servicord 3 to 0 Marston 1F3) STHE GOPHER (193) (D) (A D Benneth C Worte ti) 11 m J Karanagh B (193) MALWOOD CASTLE (193) (D) (Maloo) C Mortock 10 ft (193) F (193) MALWOOD CASTLE (193) (D) (Ale SU Warwengh) R Afree 9 ft (193) HARM (193) (D) (G Heart) J Mulins 9 ft (193) T (193) MALWOOD CASTLE (193) (D) (Ale Sent) J Mulins 9 ft (193) T (193) MALWOOD CASTLE (193) (D) (Ale Sent) J Mulins 9 ft (193) T (193) Marston 1 ft (193) Marston 1 f 4.05 You're Agoodun (nb)

BETTING: 7-2 Coole HBL, Gigi Beach, 9-2 Kinnahata, 13-2 Moorland Highifver, 6-1 Methrood Cas-tle, 9-1 In Truth, 10-1 Parahandy, 12-1 The Gopher, 16-1 God Speed You, 20-1 Father Sky 1998 Kendal Cavalier 8 10 8 D Salter (3) 6-1 (8 Milman) 11 run

FORM GUIDE

Form Guide

Father Sky: In and out performer since Chepstow win early last season from 5th highex, Returned to Flat stater two unenthusastic chase efforts this term.
The Gopher; in good form early in season and possibilities on 4 lengths 3rd to Linton Rocks at Chepstow (3m heap, good to firm), Longer trip should surt.
God Speed Yeur Four-trie socret two seasons ago and winner from 2to higher last
term. Jumped poorly on Sandown reappearance. Easing ground is against him
Mahwood Castler Capable of a bold show on Wincenton reappearance win over Saras
Delight from 3to lower, but sulked on latest start and ran a stinker in this race last year
Parahitandy; Hill form around this time last year, scoring all Fontwell and Wincanton,
but below best lately. Worth consideration with binkers and Timmy Murphy In
Trutht; Kim Mur winner last year, but faded back, into 8th peehod Ceite Ceart in same
race last month. Generally not in good enough from to take advantage of sign in weights
Gligil Beach: On the upgrade with 6th better win and career-best length 2nd to Prime Exemple at Kelso (Am hoar), good). Could find the trip on the sharp side
Coole Hill: Back to form with 17-length win over Steel Moas it Wincanton (3m11 licap,
good) last month after lean spell. Still well handicapped on last season's form
Klanahalate: On upgrade with 6 tengths. 2nd to Smartly at Uttoseter and Towcester win
from The Full Monty. Plenty to find with Gip Beach on Exclar form
Moorland Hightifyer: Third handicap win of the season when beating Flapack Lad 8
lengths at Chepstow (3m21 hoap, soft), despite slep up in grade
VERDICT: This trip looks on the sharp side for the handily weighted Gligil Beach, so

VERDICT: This trop looks on the sharp side for the handly weighted Gigl Beach, so the issue could rest between the back to-form COOLE HiLL and Paretrandy David Nichologis mare had a ton in hand at Wincenton and is still on a very lenser handscap mark, it she can avoid jumping errors, she could have the edge on binkered-first-time Paretrandy, who appeared to go particularly well for Timmy Murphy last season and now has the talented inshman aboard for the first time this term.

3.30 FAUCETS FOR MIRA RADA 'NH' AUCTION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) \$20,000 added

450217	MASTER RASTUS (22) (W Peto) Mrs S Willerns 6 tt 8
-10U31	KNOCKARA FAIR (69) (Mr & Mrs R A Green) J Charlton 8 11 5
	STORM CASTLE (42) (N Cronin) D Arbustanot 7 to 2
20-32	FRANK BYRNE (131) (J Fishpoot) J Old 7 11 1
	CONNOR MACLEOD (67) (Autofour Engineering) Mrs J Planan 6 to 12 R Diamoody
	POWDER HOUND (22) (Pel Mel Partners) Williams 8 10 12
	ASHGAN (18) (D) (BF) (A J & Mrs L Brazier) Williams 8 10 9 A P McCov B
	GULLIBLE GUY (19) (G A Roberts) Miss V Williams 7 10 6
	WILMOTT'S FANCY (18) (Mrs J K Peutherer) Miss V Williams 7 105 . N Williamson
	- 9 declared -
TING: 12	8 Williamst a Econor. 5.1 Property Mariend 5.1 Achony 2.1 Marter Property 5.1 Storm

Bet Tirree 13-8 Wilmott's Pancy, 5-1 Connor MacReod,6-7 Asingan, 7-7 Mase Castle, Powder Hound, 10-1 Knockare Falk, Gulfible Guy, 14-1 Frank Byrne

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Master Rastus: Progressive and who blowed Taunton win with 15-length Ultroster handcap success from Freddie Muck (3m heap,heavy). One to consider Knockara Pair: Confirmed promise of 8 lengths 3rd to All Gong at Doncaster when trouncing moderate field at Kelso (2m) last time. Longer trip should help Storm Castle: Ourdissed pehind Kates Charm at Chepstow last time, but beat Master Rastus a head at Taunton (3m) on previous start and 6th better off now Frank Byrne: Hefty amount to find on latest 5 lengths 2nd of 7 to Musical Sing at Exter (2m) now, good in Docember, but yard now in better form Connor Macleod: Disappointed on heavy at Ultroster latest, but distinct chance on previous 12 lengths 3rd to Kings Boy at Doncaster (2m4) now, good to soft). Open to improvement and Durwoody booking looks symficant.

Powder Hound: Bangor winner over Professor Cool, Something to find on latest 3rd to Kenry s Oats as Fortiwell (2m2t good to firm) following lay-off Longer trip could help! Ashigart: Improved for binkers when beating Burn Out 4 lengths at Huntringdon (2m). to Kerry's Oats at Fortiwell (2m2t, good to firm) following lay-off. Longer trip could help Astigant: Improved for binkers when beating Burn Out 4 lengths at Hurtingdon (2m5) maden, good to soffit but below best since. Possibilities with McCoy booked Guillible Guy: Seemed to need all of 3m when beatin 2 lengths by Berlin Blue in a

VERDICT: It is hard to see beyond WILMOTT'S FANCY, who eppeared to be mentaring her form admirably at Newbury lest time and is thrown in under race conditions. Only if a busy campaign finally takes its toll does the promising Connor Macleod

4	.05	MITTE GROUP NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 27,000 added 3m 110yds Penaity Value £5,425
•	142241	LADY OF GORTMERRON (36) (C D) (Chet Round) N Trestor-Daves 7 11 13 C Liencellyn
2	-13P04	HOLBORN HILL (30) (D) (J.E. Erom) C Marn 7 11 5
3	275321	YOU'RE AGOODUN (108) (J S Lammeran) U Pipe 7 TI 2 A P McCoy 8
4	5-41P1	YORKSHIRE EDITION (9) (Robert Ogdan) P Nichols 5 11 1 (7ex)
5	-32231	SILK VESTMENTS (21) (Mrs. J.M.F. Cibber) Mass V. Walants 7 to 13 N. Walantson
6	02-344	DIE FLEDERMAUS (142) (BF) (Lady Vestey) Miss H Knight 5 to 11
7		GONE BALLISTIC (19) (Mrs B. J. Lockharti D. Nicholson 8 to 7
8	43334	GREYCOAT BOY (36) (N VI Firmgion) J King 7 109 L Cummins (3)
9	265401	LTDEFTX (28) (Mrs F Stevenson) T George 7 10 7 T Jenks
10	006544	VELNIEZ (18) (R Mathew) R Mathew 6 10 8
11	013550	LIMIT THE DAMAGE (USA) (3) (John Whyte) J Whyte 7 TO 4 A Magaine
12	(20-20)	CIARA CANE [11] (Denns Descon) A Carrol 8 to 1 O McPhall (5)
13		HIGHLAND JACK (86) (D) (K Gibbors & 8 Carsts) A Turnel 9 to 0 R Ferrant
K	466505	SHADIRWAN (36) (C Popham & 100 B Powell B
15	3-1250	LATE ENCOUNTER (9) (D) (S R Brown) R Brown 8 13 0
16	Selection	STATE FAIR (51) (Stake Rattle and Roth G Ham 5 10 C F Kenley (7)

Minimum. 10st. Weighes: Highland Jack 9st 12b, Steelman 9st 10th Late Expounder 9st 3b, Steel Fast 9st. BETTING: 9-2 You're Agoodum, 6-1 Yorkshire Edition, 7-1 Gone Ballistic, 8-1 Lady Of Gorbnerron, Silk Vegtments, Die Fledermaus, L'Idellot, 10-1 othera

FORM VERDICT

There are question marks about the form of some of these but VELMEZ has shown a decent level of ability in much better company and should stay this sort of trip. You're Agoodus has not been on a racecourse for more than three months

	4	.35	PRESTBURY PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 5f 110yds Penalty Value £6,814
	1	327444	L'OPERA (FRI) (60) (Shekh Ahmed Al Maktouri) O Nicholson 6 11 10
	2	P\$0500	DARAYDAN (28) (CD) (D.A. Johnson) M.Poe 7 11 5 A.P. McCoy
:	3	5P520	BETTER OFFER (28) (Seymour Cohn) Mrs A Perrett 7 Tt 2
	4		CALL MY GUEST (25) (D & Mrs J Geet R Pazzock 9 104
4	5		FALMOUTH BAY (28) (D) (V James 8 D Samuert) E L James TO 10 2 . J R Kavaragh
-	f		CANTON VENTURE (148) (CD) (Or Frack S B Chao) S Woods 7 100 P Hide
	-		DICTUM (42) (Mrs R A Humpitnes) Miss H Knoth 8 100
-	8		KINGSDOWN TRIK (9) (The Pental Partnersho) R J Smith 5 to 0 (Ser), J Goldstein (3)
			- 8 deciared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Dictum 9st 9fb, Kinsdown Tru 9st 3fb SETTING: 5-2 Dareydan, 3-1 L'Opera, 5-1 Kingsdown Trix, 6-1 Call My Guest, 7-1 Better Offer, 8-1 Falmouth Bay, 16-1 Dictum, 20-1 Cardon Venbure. 1998: Spendid 6 11 8 A Magure 9-4 fav (D Nicholson) 9 ran

FORM VERDICT

Darraydan finished ahead of BETTER OFFER at the Festival last month but this race may well suit the latter better and he is preferred. Dictum represents a stable return-

5.10 GEORGE DULLER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 4YO 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,485

312401 NEW BIRD (GER) (9) (D) (P E Circon) D Nicholson 11 E

SETTING: 9-4 Masemedas, 7-2 Affgrit, 9-2 New Bird, 11-2 Edwards, 13-2 Mothers Help, 8-1 Stop wetch, 16-1 I Wish You Love, 50-1 Safford

FORM VERDICT

MASADAMAS has every chance on the form of his Newbury win last time, as long as the going does not become soft. That comment could also apply to Alignit, but the latter beat a poor bunch last time and Masadomes has more expenence over hurdles. New Bird and Edwarda are from top stables and must enter celoulations in an interesting finale.

BEVERLEY

HYPERION 2.15 Wadi 2.45 Red Charger 3.29 Tom Dou-gal 3.55 Tara's Girl 4.25 Vals Whispa 4.55 Medelai 5.25 Sliver Groom

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best up to a mile.
Iff Right-hand, galloping course with very stiff 5f.
Iff Course is mill of town on A1036 Bavedey station (Hult - Scarborough line) 2m. ADMISSION: Cub E14: Tattersalis £9 (OAPs £6). Siver Ring £3 (OAPs £2), Course £2 (OAPs £150). Picho area £2 or £2 per car, plus £2 per occupant. CAR PARIX: Free.
Iff LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 27-122 (221%) J Berry 21-20 (175%). Mrs M Revoley 15-80 (168%). T Easterby 13-26 (103%).
Iff LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 38-39 (199%), K Fallon 26-155 (168%), J Fortune 17-133 (128%). J Carroll 5-16 (129%).
Iff SAVOURTIES: 208-596 (372%). TONIGUE STRAP: Die For Cold. # FAVOURITES: 208-559 (372%). TONGUE STRAP: Dig For Gold (2.5), Kentucky Bullat (2.45): Opulent (5.25). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Untold Richae (visored, 2.45). LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLER: Joely Green (3.55). Cowboys And Angals (4.25) & Coral Reef (4.55) all sent 256 miles

2.15 SCARBOROUGH SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 1m 100yds

2532 ANONYM (13) (D) G M Moore 7 9 12. __ P Goode (5) 3 7 06-33 WADK (13) G NaCourt 49 12 J Wearwer 13 10 00000 FRECKLES (JB) M Fiyar 49 7 P. McCabe 10 10 00000 THE WILD WIDOW (18) Miss S Witon 59 7 N Calan (5) 5 1 DIG FOR GOLD (L40) R Weochouse 686 ... G Perian 18
10 0660 EASTLEIGH (28) (I) R Holirothean (1) 95 ... A Cultimore 8
11 00660 EASTLEIGH (28) (I) R Holirothean (1) 95 ... A Cultimore 8
12 OR RUSSIAN ROUGE (117) M 3-titam 4.9 1... D Memogh (5) 8
13 5-005 TOWNMULE CEE CEE (7) G Woodward 4.9 1. S D Williams 11
15 OT TIP THE BALANCE (317) J Parkes 3.8 0. ... F Norton 1

BETTING: S-1 Wadi, 6-1 The Wild Widow, 7-1 Anonym, 8-1 Gecuine John, 10-1 Desert Cal, Detroit City, Mr Rough, Frecides, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

WADI has evidently had his problems but has the form to win in this company and should be suited by this drop in Irip. The Wild Wildow is a danger if back to her best but she has not shown much on her last two starts. Genuine John is landed reverse this months Musselburgh form with Anonym e revised terms and holds a decent each-way chance.

2.45 WITHERNSEA HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3YO 7f 100yds

BETTING: 9-2 Little Amin. 6-1 Zufal, 7-1 Kentucky Bullet, 8-1 Prideresy, Montague Tigg, 19-1 Untold Riches, 8's Our Secret. 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

A typically tough early-season 3yo contest, complicated by ground and draw UNTOLD RICHES showed promise on her second juvenile start and, with her stable in good form, looks a likely type now that she is handcapping in a visor. Kentucky Bullet, in front of Prideway and Red Charger at Doncaster last month, is progressing well and is teared, along with it's Our Secret who shaped well against a well-hand/capped.

3.20 LECONFIELD CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS C) 59,000 added 7f 100yds - 8 declared -

SETTING: 5-2 Grangeville, 9-2 Serpentine, 11-2 Mundo Raro, 6-1 Tom Dougal, Yulara, 7-1 River Times, 12-1 Latalomne, General Academy FORM VERDICT More often than not if pays to side with a proven handicap-per in this type of event, and TOM DOUGAL gets the vote on that bass. He won his third and fourth starts last year, both the season is many as the season of the season of the season of the should be cherry now after a fair run in the Lincoth Grangeville is much leared, but he might just need this to put him right for badger targets coming up

3.55 HUTTON CRANSWICK MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (E) (DIV I) £3,500 2YO 5f GOING HOME JL Eyre 8 12 GAIN TIME (16) T D Barron 8 9 3 GAIN TIME (16) T D Barron 8 9
3 KIND EMPEROR (18) M Polgtase 8 9
THORNCLIFF FOX J Glove 8 9
S O Williams 12
GS HEATHVARDS LAD (11) R Holinchead 86
JOELY GREEN W G M Tymer 8 6
A Nichola (5) 9
ANDERT R Meetran 8 6
W J O Connoc 3
C Bartlet LABRETT B Meeten 86 W. BEST EVER M W Easterby 83 2 TARAS GRE. (11) J.J. Curn 81 ... D. Mernagh 155 6
APRIL'S COMAIT Mess J. Craze 7 °C ... T. Williams 6
0 OURS FOR LIFE (7) Ron Thompson 7 °2 A Mackey 13

- 13 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Heathyands Lad, 5-1 Kind Emperor, 5-1 Gain Time, 7-1 Clever Girl, 5-1 Tara's Girl, 10-1 Ours For Life, 12-1 Labrett, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT

LABRETT, who has plenty of speed in his pedigree and comes from a stable whose yourgeters are clearly well forward, is suggested deepte reservations about his draw Tara's Girt, who holds Healthyards Lad on Haydock running, is the form pick and should relish this track, but her merit will be known to connections of newcomer Clever Girl, who trained her con

4.25 HUTTON CRANSWICK MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (E) (DIV II) \$3,500 2YO 51 D XENOS (11) M Channon 89 A Mackey a COWBOYS AND ANGELS (14) W G M Turner 86 . I F Egs SAMME DUROSE R Fahey 86 R Winston (3) 6 4 YALS WHISPA (13) S Kettlewel 86 J Carroll 11 6 LADY TELLY (13) M Wane 7 2 ...

-13 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Xenou, 6-1 Jenems Tale, Vels Whispa, Decert Safart, 7-1 In The Nick, 6-1 Cowboye And Angels, 12-1 Sepati Heven, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT

Mick Channon's juveniles have been in good form and Xenos, who looked in need of the run at Haydock on his debut when in front of Sweet Haven, could easily leave that form e long way behind. Desert Setari is going the right way and another to consider but sight preference is for COWBOYS AND why between bottom to group the night way and another to consider but stont preference is for COWBOYS AND ANGELS, who showed plenty of promise when betten only just over a length at Folkestone on his debut.

4.55 BRIDLINGTON BAY HANDICAP (E) 0008-1 COMPTON AMICA (14) G A Butler 87. 0603-6 FLY LIKE A BIRD (14) S Woods 91 04306- SCOOP (163) S Kettlewell 8 10 .. J Carroll 10 000-0 SADDLERS' GLORY (14) C Farturs 8 11 .1 Granthem 40210 MEDELAI (165) J Bertel 8 9 ... J Wes 300: SHOP WestDOW (177) T Exterby 6 9 ... K Dw 36-953 CORNAL REEF (9) W G W Turner 6 2 ... A Daily G 30560- HF-JENNY (193) W Storey 7 11 06060- BOLD PELICITER (198) D Malfatt 7 10 000- GILLY WEET (158) R Holinchead 7 to ... - 12 declared -7st 10%. True weights. Gilly Weet 7st 5tb., Pansienne Hill 7st 5tb.

BETTING: 9-4 Compton Amics, 9-2 Fly Like A Bird, Medelei, 11-2 Coral Reef, 9-1 Shop Window, 12-1 Scoop, 16-1 Dispoi Trump, 20-1 others FORM VERDICT

Middle-distance handicaps for three-year-olds are a bit of a guessing game for punters at this stage of the season, with so many runners open to considerable improvement for a step up in trip. Tim Easterby won a similar event with Pum Pointer at Catterick recently, and since SHOP WINDOW ran her best race first time out last year and she's bred to stay, she gets the wate. Compton Amica and Modelal are others worth

5.25 HORNSEA HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,250 added 1m 2f

00-011 TOP JEM (6) (0) M Ryon 5 9 7 (6ex)... 24056- JEDI KNIGHT (166) (0) M W Easterby 5 9 8 .P McCabe 8 02005- SRUGR GROOM (114) (D) M Cramon 9 7 10 ... A Macicay 3 -5640 VINCENT (37) JL Hams 4 7 10 ... A Michale (5) 9

- 10 occurre -Minimum weight, for 10th Time handsop weight: Vincent 7st 2th BETTING: 9-4 Top Jem. 5-1 Silver Groom, 6-1 Koniter, 7-1 Tottem Dunder, 9-1 Night Piyer, Jadi Knight, 10-1 Merske Machine, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Mick Ryan does well with handicappers once they hit form and TOP JEM has an obvious chance on her recent wing The forecast ground would be faster than she prefers, but she does handle it and the opposition make writted appeal. Konker could go well, white Marske Mechine and Opulant are others with chances.

Murphy faces ban TIMMY MURPHY could face a breach they will suspend him

Murphy was referred to

In changes to the whip instructions which took effect on

If the Disciplinary Commit-

Going: Good To Firm 2. All The Way _T Quion 14-1

2. All The Way Touring 14-1 3. Time Zone P Robinson 11-2 Also ran: 15-8 fav E Mobashert, 5-1 lpledgealleglance (6th), 10-1 Court Of Aus-nee, 12-1 Emutabald (4th), 20-1 War Cab-inel (5th), 25-1 Challenges, 33-1 Zilarator. 10 ran. 3'h, 4, 3'h, 4, 5 (Winner chestinat St. by Circle and Recepter Of Mark Rilly by Oiesis out of Princess Of Man trained by H Cecil at Newmarket for HRH Prince Fahd Salman). Tote: £6.80; £2.40. £3.00, £1.70. DF: £42.10. CSF: £96.38. 2.35: (6f Listed Abernant Stakes)

Lady Whent and Friends), Tote: £1050; £3.50, £3.80, £2.00, DF: £164.00, CSF:

Altanic Destiny (3th), 8-1 Nout, 14-1 Amaz-ing Dream, Lambera (6th), 20-1 Elikay Stac Frappe, 33-1 Sk Lodge. 11 ran. 3, ½, 1, 1½, nk. (Winner bay filly by Be My Guest out of Save Me The Wolfz, trained by J Gosden at Newmarket for the Kirby Maher Syndicate). Tote: \$420; £170, £160, £210 OF: £4400, CSF; £1914.

_M Hills 13-2

4.45: (7/ 3yo states)
1. BAHAMIAN BANDITK Pallon 3-1

5.20. (im 2l 3yo maiden stakes)
1. MiRJAN D Holland 16-1
2. Williamshakespeare M Hills 7-1
3. Storm Hill J Fortune 9-4 To Love (5th), 72-1 Tabsrak 14-1 Drect Deal, Entikaa, 20-1 Sr Legend, Sun Hat, 25-Desi, Erifkaa, 20-1 Sr Legand, Sun Hat, 25-1 Mixed Currency, 33-1 Grosvenor Flyer, Knockhot, (6th), Nisabis, Zincalo, 19 ran. ½, nd. 1, 1½, 1 (Wanner bay coll by Tenby out of Mirana, framed by L. Currant at Newmarket, for H. H. Aga Khan), Tole: £2540; £580, £200, £150, DF: £7090, CSF £12458.

Jackpot: Not won: C3554213 carried for-ward to Newmarket today. Piacopot: C29630 Quadpot: C1420 Piaco 6: C30727, Place 5: C3682

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Valentine an inspiration · for Dettori

conditions here on the July at Newmarket Course yesterday there was a rude shock. All 33 of Newmaket's racedays this year will take place at the summer course as the Rowley Mile venue's grandstand is rebuilt in time for the millennium Guineas. This should have been good news, a move from the whistling winds on the open grassland to the lower-lying, wooded haven. The fixtures, however, are not the only element to have been sent down the hill. Yesterday's weather was borrowed from the old place, the sort of conditions in which car manufacturers lest the aerodynamics of their new

models. There were none of the customary thunderflies in the air. rather the noise from crows nesting in the paddock-side trees. The sky was the colour of a miner's bath. There was nothing July about this setting

It was into this unwelcome environment that 11 fillies were and-white-striped livery of sent out for the first meaningful Classic trial of the season, the Nell Gwyn Stakes. Having and the contest was over. John spent the last six months looking at great beasts of the National Hunt field it was rather odd to see these delicate ornaments brought before us. They her stamina stretched, weakwere preposterously leggy, the ened to finish fourth.

FOR THOSE expecting element BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

sort of young things that do not get out of bed in the morning for less than £10,000.

Among these pretty little things Circle Of Gold. Ellway Star and Valentine Waltz were conspicuously diminutive, the sort of things you might get out of a cracker. For two of them at least, appearances proved deceptive.

Hawriyah, Ski Lodge and Amazing Dream were line

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Haami (Newmarket 2.35)

NB: Epsom Cyclone

(Newmarket 2.05)

abreast for the first half of this contest, but it was Enemy Action, looking like Sooty with measles in the Cliveden Stud colours, who looked the dangerous stalker two furlongs out. Then, though, the green-Frankie Dettori on Valentine Waltz squeezed along the rail Gosden's filly was three lengths clear at the line. Hawriyah was second, Circle Of Gold a fast-fin-

ishing third and Enemy Action.

3,45 Wave Of Optimism

The mighty cohorts of Godolphin and Aidan O'Brien's Irish operation have yet to toss forward their great hopes, but now the home guard has started to assemble. From a morning 50-1, Valentine Waltz is down to 16-1. "She's improved and she's worked well this year, a lot more enthusiastic than she was last season," Gosden said. "I think she'll get a mile and she deserves to go straight to the

Guineas. She'll he a better filly

on faster ground."

The doomsters have been preparing a shroud for Stanley House for some time now following Sheikh Mohammed's decision to concentrate resources on Godolphin and thus deny Gosdon some of their prime bloodstock. The trainer's response has been quick and successful, "We've got about 25 horses that are going really well, doing easy work on the bridle," he said. "And when they come right like they have done it's greal.

"At this time last year the horses looked very well hut they all ran flat so we're taking advantage of this. Long may it continue.

It appears the filly may be ridden here on Classic day by Dettori, as Godolphin commitments that weekend at the Kentucky Derby are likely to be



To the backdrop of Newmarket's giant screen, Frankie Dettori and Valentine Waltz (right) beat Hawriyah (centre) in yesterday's Nell Gwyn Stakes

"Any filly that wins a trial by three lengths has to he a live candidate," he said. "I think she'll run a hig race.'

We will see more of Frankie Dettori this season as he tries to erase the memory of a bad filled by American jockeys. The campaign numerically and in-

Italian expects a decent effort. dividually in a single, ghastly night at the Breeders' Cup. "Last year I was trying to look after myself perhaps too much." he said. "I was trying to avoid getting suspended or injured, but, at the end of the day, that's really not my style. I felt I had a lot more to give at the

end of the season." This year, in November, he expects to feel shattered.

1.000 GUINEAS (Newmarket, 2 May):
Corat: 9-2 Mcteva & 1 Ezzaaz, 8-1 Surspanyled, 10-1 Mother Of Peart 12-1 Blue
Coud, 41-7 Caland; 8 Warnabe Grand, 5-1
Valentine Waltz: Ladbrokes: 4-1 Moteva, 8-1
Elzaaz, 7-1 Surespanyled, 12-1 Calando
8 Mother Of Peart, William Halt; 4-1 Moteva, 6-1 Elzaaz, 6-1 Surspanyled, 10-1
Mother Of Peart

Salty Jack whets the appetite

THE FREE HANDICAP is often BY GREG WOOD thought to be the poor relation among the Classic trials at the Craven meeting, but 12 months ago it came into an unexpected inheritance from a long-forgotten aunt. Racegoers headed away from Newmarket at the end of the week with thoughts only for Xaar, who had just won the Craven Stakes, but it was Desert Prince, the Free Handicap winner 24 hours earlier, who turned out to be hy far the best horse to appear at the meeting. His next four outings were all in Group One events and he won three, and finished

It is a thought to bear in mind when examining this year's renewal, which as usual does not appear to he overflowing with potential champions. It is not even all that flush with runners, and just six will go to post, which will oot please its new sponsor, the bookmaker Victor Chandler,

Bertolini, the runner-up though a distant one – to Lujain in the Group One Middle Park Stakes last season, will be a popular choice, particularly after the success of John Gosdeo's runner in the Nell Gwyn Stakes yesterday. Vision Of Night, though, was only narrowly beaten into third in the Middle Park.

and is now 2lb better off. This is probably another of watched without the bias of a bet, although Undeterred (3.10), who was improving fast at the end of last season, may offer a small slice of value. The same goes for the Earl of Sefton Stakes, although there is a particularly interesting runner

NEWMARKET

seemed a favoured part of the

has established a great parter-

s best held up for an ultra-late

challenge. Epsom Cyclone

must enter the reckoning if soft-

er ground gives those drawn

2.35: Despite the presence of

Duck Row, John Dunlop's

TERRED's final run last season

ta win over 6f at Yorkri has been

franked since and this colt can

surprise the runners from the

3.45: Minivet appears to act oo

all types of ground and may well

stay 12 furlongs. On this tough track, however, there is a slight

doubt over his stamina. In con-

trast, WAVE OF OPTIMISM

Nottingham at the end of last season and would be worthy of

hip with this five

stands side a chance.

bigger yards.

four-year-old has obviously had her problems, having raced just once, but that single winning appearance, in a Kempton

maiden, promised much.

She has plenty of catching up to do in terms of experience. however, and is unlikely to start at a worthwhile price today (although Cecil did have a winner at Newmarket vesterday who drifted all the way to 8-11. Stick instead to the handicaps, and in particular SALTY JACK (nap 2.051, who was a little disap-pointing on his last run last year hut did not have Ray Cochrane in the saddle that day. Cochrane had previously won twice on Salty Jack, who may not have stopped improving yet, and be is back on board today.

Rainbow Ways will probably head the market for the 12-furlong handicap. having won his last three races since being fitted with hlinkers, including one over this course and distance. He may meet his match. though, in Mark Johnston's Albericb (next best 3.45), who is very lightly raced and could develop into a fine staying handicapper.

Cheltenham begins its penultimate meeting of the season with something of a whimper, although the novice hurdle, with £20,000 in added those early trials which is best money, is a prize worth having. Plan A is to try and persuade your bookmaker to lay a price about a trainer called Williams winning it, which would cover five of the nine runners, but if that fails, Wilmott's Fancy 13.301 is prohably the one. Gigi Beach (2,55) should go close in here in Shiva. Henry Cecil's the Golden Miller.

NEWMARKET

HYPERION

1.35 Whispering Wind 2.05 Saity Jack 2.35 Handsome Ridge 3.10 Undeterred

4.15 Musical Treat 4.45 Indeedydn

GOING: GOOD.

STALLS: Stands side.

ORAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers probably best up to lim.

If Right-hand course with 'in straight (July course).

If Course is SW of town on ATOO, Bus link from Combridge and Newmarket railway stations. ADMISSION: Club enclosure £16 (half-price 16-25-year-olds): Grendstand 3 Paddock enclosure £11 (16-25-year-olds & OAPs, £6); Family enclosure £3. CAR PARK:

FIVE-YEAR RECORD

LEADING TRAINERS: H Cacel 24-95 (25.3%), J Goaden 21-118 (17.9%), J Duniop 21-120 (175%), L. Cumeni 17-116 (147%), IL LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 35-172 (203%), L. Dettori 33-161 (205%), R. Hills 26-106 (245%), K. Fation 20-79 (253%).

■ FAVOURITES: 186 was from 507 races (success rate 36.7% TONGUE STRAP: Tumblemeed Ridge (205); Hummi (235); Gold Angel (4:5). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Glary Of Grosvenor (345).

1.35 WOOD DITTON STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) 27,000 added

	310 1m Penalty Value £5,020
	CAPTAIN BUGH (M Tator & Mrs. John Magner) Sr M Stouer 9 0 S Sanders 1 HIGH (HOYLAND (J P Hardman) R Harison 9 0 R Hughes
	KEZ (Derres Yardy) S Woods 9 0 Dene O'Neill
	KUWAIT BIRD (Greenfield Stati) K Mahdi 9 0
	MANINDAR (H H Age Khan) L Cuman 9 0 Fortune
	PARKSIDE (The Pariscle Partnership) W Mur 80
	SWAM KNIGHT (USA) (Sheith Mohammed) J Gosdon B 0 L Dettori
	WHISPERING WIND [Maktourn Al Maktourn) E Dunlop 9 0 T Guitan
	WHO CARES WINS (Kreiks Desmal) C Britton 80
)	FORTUNE COOKIE (Dr St. John Coller & Mrs. S Coller) J Fanshave 8 9 R Cochrane 1
i	MISHOR (Mrs J A Prescott) W Jarves 8 8
2	QUIET DIGNITY (W J Gredley) 9 Hits 89
	- 12 declared -
errole	C. 2 4 Pages Valent 4.1 Origin Digarty G.9 Whitenering Wind 13.2 Captain Blick Harryts

BETTING: 3-1 Speen Knight, 4-1 Quart Dignay, 9-2 Witsperary were, 1-3-2 Contents 9-1 Kuwak Bird, 14-1 Who Carea Wins, 18-1 Fortune Cookie, Mistics, 18-1 others 1998. The Sandtly 8 9 M Hills 20-1 (B Hills) drawn (20) 19 ran

FORM VERDICT

Several of these are bred in the purple but the big-race entries of SWAN KNIGHT, coupled with John Gesden's record in the event, suggest he should go well today. Capitalle Bligh and Manndar make planty of appeal on pedigree, too, while Whitapering Wind comes from a yard whose Syo's are in fine form.

2.05 GRANTCHESTER RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £14,000 added 7f Penalty Value £8,595

		RAINGS
		KLIMAIT (USA) (9) (Maksoum Al Maksoum) E Duniop 5 9 7
	00004-	TUNGEL EWEED RIDGE (192) (CD) (Tumbleweed Partnersho) 8 Meeten 697
		M Tabbut 14 B 105
	WWZ-	STANOTT (282) (D) (Souders Renost) L Current 4 9 6 L Dettori 5 105
	00000-	DAUNTING LADY (207) (D) (E Nagel-Enchsen) R Hannon 492R Hughes 18 110
	1020-2	GRANNY'S PET (9) (D) (Mrs Devise Margot Arbb) P Cole 5 8 2 doubtful 20 109
	316-20	ASTRAC (5) (D) (T L Beecrott) D Nichols 8 9 1
	/0232-	AL MUALLIM (190) (2) (BF) (Al Munim Pshp) J W Payne 590 A McGione 2 105
	00265	RETURN OF AMEN (148) (D) (Sheikh Arma Dahimo) J Bethell 5 B 13 T Quian 1 110
	/1400-	DAYLIGHT IN DUBAI (USA) (184) (P Lake) O Nichols 5 8 TO K Fallon 0 170
		EMERGING MARKET (200) (P Wroughton) J Duniop 7 8 10Pst. Eddery 18 109
	35043-	HARMONIC WAY (194) (EF) (Mrs A.J Chandre) R Charlton 489T Sprake 9 111
	23512-	FREE OPTION (202) (D) (BF) (Ahmed All) 5 Harbury 4 88
	20010-	EPSON CYCLONE (USA) (185) (Salem Bel Obacc) B Hills 4 8 8 M Hills 19 108
	23m0-	SALTY JACK (171) (D) (Four Seasons Recng) V Scene 5 85 R Cochrane 12 109
	30000-	OBJAHA CITY (200) (D) (8 Gubby Lid) 8 Gubby 5 8 4
	00020-	NO EXTRAS (179) (CD) (K Higson) G L Moore B 8 4
	40060-	SHOWBOAT (179) (D) (R O Hollingsworth) 8 Hills 5 8 4 N Polland (3) 10 105
	000-60	TEMERAIRE (USA) (18) (P M Mooney) R Ingram 4 8 4
	000-00	TERTILIM (18) (CD) (Ars L Miler) N Lithmoden 7 8 4 M Fention 13 86
1	130-0	DUSHANBE (18) (D) (G C Hartgan) N Calaghan 4 8 4

– zo aecturad – Annmum welghe Bal 4lb. True handicap wergha: No Ednas Bal 3lb, Showboat Bal 2lb, Termeraire Bal 1lb, BETTING: 8-1 Daylight in Dubal, Stanott, 9-1 Harmonic Way, 10-1 Al Mustlim, Return Of Amin, Salty Jack, 11-1 Epsom Cyclons, Showboat, 14-1 Emerging Market, Free Option, Kurnelt, 16-1 Dauming Lady, Tambleweed Ridge, 25-1 No Extres, 23-1 others ead Ridge 593 M Tebbutt 14-1 (B Meehan) drawn (12) 16 mm

FORM GUIDE

Kumelt: Won a conditions stakes at Yarmouth (St. good) in September and earlier very good second here (7t firm) in Burbury Cup. Not quite at best so far on soft surface, but would have a fine chance it going dired out. Usually a front runner Tumbleweed Ridge: Has gone badly off the boil in each of last two sessions, but start-

a son solution Stanotic Won Folkestone maiden (71 soft) and listed race at Rome (im, good to firm) as 3yo. Fourth over Im21 at Doncaster prompts womes about the drop back to 7 firslongs here Deunting Lady: Won the the Fred Darling Stakes at Newtoury (73f, soft) 12 months ago: Comparable form in 1000 Guineas and Coronation States. Disappointing after-

eards. Stable struck form at Newmarket yesterday Grennry's Pet: Chances on pick of his form, but frequently follows good run with a

poor one Neck second to Warmingtond at Warwick (7) good to solt). Described yes-terday by his trainer as a doubtful runner this afternoon. Astract: Useful sprint form (unproven at 7f) on soft surface, but has seldom produced. it over last two seasons. Below form this term on AW and in Kempton conditions stakes.

From a strewd yard

All Muslim: Upped 4to in the handicep reengs after series of good efforts at 7f last
term, including third of 25 to White Heart in a \$50,000 hendicep at Ascot. Twice good

second on good to sort Return Of Amin: Improved performer last season, winning at Pontetract (6t, solt) and good second in three handicaps afterwards, including to Salty Jack over 71 here Doylight in Dubel: Has roced in Britain, USA and France, in last-marked last season whoring a minor context for Criquette Head but making this impact attanwards. Bookak-

warrang a minor consect for chipdren read out making a laboration and earlier or consect for one up quite short in morning lists Emerging Market: As good at 7/ as 61, but best on a sound surface 1 to higher than when 1/-length second of 22 to Cadeaux Cher in the Great St Wiffrid at Ripon Harmonic Way: Pather highly strung but mostly ran well last term at 61/71, including in Bunbury Cup and Stewards' Cup. Close third to Salty Jack final start. Acts on soft going. Stable yet to fire this season.

Free Option: Much improved last autumn, winning a 20-runner race at Newbury (73), good) in good style before finishing a good second (4th higher now) over tim2(at Pontaria).

Epsom Cyclone: Far sprint form, 3lb higher here than when winning at Salisbury (6t, sort) in September by /s langth. Ren poorly final start. Bred to stay 7 furtorigs. First try today. Acts well on soft ground

Satty Jack: Won four times over this distance last season, coming from well behind in handcaps on the last three occasions and beating Return Of Amn ½ length here Omaha City: Well trandicapped, 4th lower in the handicap ratings than when close fourth in the Bunbury Cup, but hard to catch right and took some time to find his form each of last three seasons. each of tast three seesons No Extrast: 185 higher than when whoning here (71, good) last June. Mostly well below

form second half of last season. Usually needs his reappearance outing. Acts on soft Showboat: Ran well in some big 71 handicaps tast summer, looking well treated now on 76 lower than his close slidth in the Buribury Cup. Below form last four starts, but has contested competitive handicaps and cannot be nuled out. Tenstraine; Won a maden and classified states over tin (good to firm) last summer, setting pace, for Amanda Perrett. Below form this season on AW and in the Lincoln Tertium; 7to out of handcop and stiff task on form of last two seasons, but occa-sionally exceeded expectations last term (won twice). Eighth in the Lincoln at Don-caster last time.

Dushamber Had only three runs (in less than 2 months) for Luca Cumani last sum-mer, winning Beverley maiden (7t good to soft), 50-1, 19th of 24 in the Lincoln VERDICT: The racing here yesterday finited strongly that an ability to handle soft ground and race up the far ade would prove important. The horse who best fat this profile is RETURN OF AMIN, indiden by Richard Quinn who cannot be bettered for his tacked astureness. All Muelitim has good form on good to soft, while several interesting contenders with a high drawto overcome include 1998 Fred Darling winner Daunt-

eed Ridge, Epsom Cyclone and the progress

2.35 WEATHERBYS EARL OF SEFTON STAKES (Group 3) (A) £35,000 1m 110yds Penalty

		value £22,43h	
	41210-	HANDSOME REDGE (122) (D) (Plett Promotions) J Gosden 5 8 t3 L Detton 10 12	1
	3/244-	ALBOOSTAN (268) (D) (BF) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) 8 Hils 4 8 to . U Hills 2 11	0
		DOWER HOUSE (9) (D) (Lord Howard de Walden) W Jarvis 4 8 10 W Ryan 5 10	r
	63303-	DUCK ROW (187) (D) (BF) (Duke of Devonsture) J Tolles 4.8 10 S Sanders 8.11	5
		GREEN CARD (USA) (165) (D) (P K L Chu) S Woods 5 8 10 . Par Eddery 9 11	0
	50221-	HAAME (USA) (180) (C) (Harrdan Al Mektoum) J Dunlop 4 8 10 R Hills 3 11	7
		LEAR SPEAR (USA) (180) (D) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 4 8 10 . T Quinn 4 11	٥
		WHITE HEART (20) (D) (Maktourn Al Maktourn), M. Johnston 4.8 to O Holland 7.8 17	6
		DIAMOND WHITE (9) (C) (P P Scott) M Ryon 4 8 7 R Price 6 10	
ı		SHIVA (JPN) (319) (Marches Family) H Cect 4 B 7 K Fallon 1 10	×
ı	1.	SHIVA (JPN) (319) (Neutrinos Family) H Cecii 4 B 7 K Fallon 1 :	£

BETTING: 7-2 Heemi, Handsome Ridge, White Heart, 11-2 Shiva, 8-1 Duck Row, 16-1 Alboostan, 12-1 Lear Spear, 14-1 Green Card, 33-1 Dower House, 40-1 Diomond White 1990. Apprehension 4 8 to D Holland 16-1 (D Loder(FR)) drawn (t) 7 ran

Handsome Ridge: Holds a very good chance on his wins in Group 3 events (tim, solf surface) at Doncaster (by 2 lengths from Princely Herr) in September and Saint-Cloud in November
Alboesten: Neck second to Border Arrow here (91, sofil 12 months ago, but tame in Lingfield Derby Troi. 674 lengths fourth to Winter Romanos in Inc.!! Scottish Classic Dower Houses: Got up near line in \$10,000 handicap at Epsom (fm21, good) last June Roder unsealed early on reappearance (first run since July). Needs to improve Duck Row; Sixth in 2,000 Guineas and third in St Jamests Palace Stakes, in both rim. good to soft beeten about 4 lengths. Only previous try over further was in the Edipse Green Card: Won two tim conditions stakes last season and plenty of evidence that he is not quite good enough to wire in this grade. Stays 8t, but would not warm it soft Haamt: 2% lengths fifth in the 2000 Guineas. Very disappointing afterwards (wore tongue strap last 3 starts) before winning 9f isted race here in good style from Mudeer Last Speed: Improved over 9f here last two starts, winning the Cambridgestive and

Laser Spears improved over an interess monitoring with a fact 3 days later White Heart: Won C50000 handcap at Assor (71, good), improved again with 2%-length with form Generous Libro in Doncaster Islaed race (71, good), improved again with 2%-length with form Generous Libro in Doncaster Islaed race (71, good), improved again with 2%-length with form Generous Libro in Doncaster Islaed race (71, good), improved again with 2%-length with form Generous Libro in Doncaster Islaed race (71, good), improved again with 2%-length with 60% of the C50000 form on AW this year but fair effort at Kempton latest start. top it basis begin form on we're year out air erior a rempton ases start. Shive: Well-brad file, 7-4 favourits, won 14-numer maden at kempton (64 good) last. May comfortably by 2 lengths, but was not seen out again. Has plenty of potential VERIDICT: The progressive WHITE HEART is proven on sort ground and that gives him the edge over Haamil, third of 5 on soft in the Solano Stakes as a 2vor and Duck Row (below form on soft final start last term). Handsome Ridge, however has regd his best efforts on a soft surface and those put him bang in contennon.

3.10 VICTOR CHANDLER EUROPEAN FREE HANDI-

	,	CAP (CLASS A) 230,000 310 77 Penany V £18,890	ane
1	12402-	SERTOLINI (USA) (195) (C) (Shekti Mohammed) J Gosden 9 7	L Dettori 6 11
2	21/22-	INDIANA LEGEND (186) (BF) (D 9 Johnston) B Meghan 9 6	Pat Eddery 1 20
3	4141	UNDETERRED (186) (5 Fusick) C Wall 96	S Sanders 5 10
4	2113-	VISION OF NIGHT (195) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 9.5	T Quarter 4 11
5	2221-0	KALIDASA (USA) (11) (D) (R Sangster) P Crapple-Hyam 9 1	. J Fortune 2 17
6	20104-	CABALLERO (214) (Sheikh Marwan Al Maktoum) C Brittain 8 12	P Robinson 3 11
		- 8 declared -	

BETTING: 2-1 Vision Of Night. 11-4 Bertolini, 4-1 Undaterred. 9-2 Indiana Legend. 10-1 Kalidasa. 1998. Desert Prince S.5 () Pesiler 7-1 (O Loder) drawn (7) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

Bertolinic Useful 6f form (sound surface) for wire in July Stakes here and second in Prix Robert Papin and Middle Park (visored). Well held in 7-furlang Group 2 at Dencaster Indiana Legend: Took up the lead about 11 out but caught close home by Goldon Sal Part to

Undeterred: Improved every start as 2yo, on final one coming with late run to best indiana Legend by a head at levels in listed race at York (6f, good), 7 furlongs will suit fore his 4% lengths that of 7 % length behind Bertolan) in the Middle Park. Will stay Kalidasa: Runner-up tour times (notably in May Hill Stakes at Doncaster) before win-

ning Warwick maiden as 2yo. Only seventh of 8 junners in Kempton listed race on Ceballero: Stamma doubts on pedigree. Made all in a Windsor conditions stakes (6)) as a Zyo and finished fourth in the Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster (50, both on

VERDICT: There is very little on form between Undeterred and Indiana Legend from their clash at York last Octobor, performances which look all the better after the victory yesterday of the third home that day, Veleraine Waltz, in the Nell Gwyn Physically, both book the sort to do better this season, but Undeterred shapes as if he is the more likely to be suited by the step up in the 71 should also, however help bring out further significant improvement from the Middle Pari Stales third VISION OF NIGHT who (along with Undeterned and Caballero) holds an entry in the 2,000 Guneas. There is little soft-ground form to go on.

3.45 SCOTTISH EQUITABLE/JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 1m 4f Penalty

410-4 HAJR (11) (C) (D) (Maktourn Al Maktourn) E Duniop 5 100 42m- RAINBOW WAYS (181) (CD) (Maktourn Al Maktourn) B Hils 4 9 10 TO/NA ALBERICH (215) (D) (J D Abel) M Johnston 498 0221P JUST IN TIME (198) (Mrs P Mernck) T Mals 497 DODOYO BLURRED (9) (Mrs P M Kalman) U Tomplum 688

M Huffs 6 '69 O HoBand 1 ≪

10034 ST LAWRENCE (CAN) (245) (Seed Morard) C Priter \$ 85 P Robinson 9 00 5350- BEAUMONT (J-C6) (C) (D) (P Cunengtorn) J Banks 9 8 2 J Owenn 13 8 66000 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (J11) (The Craftsmen) G Margarson 7 7 12 . R Ffranch 8 98

- 13 declared -BETTING: 4-1 Albertch, Rainbow Ways, 9-2 Hay, 6-1 Minivet, 8-7 Lancet, 12-1 Wave Of Optimism 14-1 St Lawrence, 16-1 First Master, Just in Time, 20-1 others 1998 Raise A Prince 5-8 to N Day 12-1 (S Woods) drawn (9) 21 ran

FORM GUIDE

High: Won at Goodwood and Epsom last summer firn4t, good to firm) 5th of this mark at Hoyal Ascot and again below form on reappearance, both on a soil surface. Rainbow Wayes Binkered, much improved last three starts to win maden and two handicaps at mirt on fast ground, how at Newmarket, Probably acts on good to soit Albertichs 4th higher than for win in raired stekes at York (firn4t, good) in September on 1998 reappearance. Creditable effort 8 days later Lightly faced and may improve Just In Timer. Did not progress as amorpated as 5yo, but won 6-runner Goodwood maden (first) good to firm) by 15 lengths. Saddle slipped first start. Not certain to start before.

Blurred: Decent handscapper in 1996, but well beaten only three starts in 1997 and did not run on Flat last year, Modest hurdles form before 10th of 13 on return to Flat First Master: Runner-up at Doncaster and Redcar (titl good to soft, same mark to-day) last two turt starts as 3yo. Ran poorly last two of five outings since on AW oay) ast two tristants way and man promy ast two go inter-burnes state on any Missingto Conty win came unimpressively at 1-16 in a three-runner madern (\$1 good to firm). Decent chance, however, on handicap form afterwards. Acts on good to soft St Lawrencer Lightly-faced Syo, well below form on 3 of 4 starts last year including in binkers! Below form so far at minst bur should stay. Well beaten both runs on soft Lancert improved in tim4 handicaps last year, but possibly flattered by winning mar-Lancert Improved in min4 handicaps lead year, but possibly hattered by writing marign at York final start. Shaped encouragingly on reappearance Probably accs on soft
Wave Of Optimism: Made debut only last August, Placed in three madens at 11 to
11141 before winning one at Nortingham firmfit soft in October by 3 lengths
Glory Of Grosvenor: Facily useful on two runs as a 2yo. Achieved norting in madens and a handicap tible lower here as a 3yo. Bred to be suited by 11141

Beaumont: Effective under the conditions 2to higher than last working manifold was from July 1997. Missed nearly all of last year and probably best watched here. General Assembly: Well treated on a couple of efforts (over 2m -) last May but went downful alterwards. Modest hundles form and tittle encouragement from AW Flat. VERDICT: Elfectiveness on a soft surface rules out most of this field and highlights the chance of WAVE OF OPTIMISM. The concerns with him are whether this will prove an madequate trip and whether he is fit on his seasonal debut, but there are also plen

GEOFFREY BARLING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS I

. 15	GEOFFREY BARLING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D)
	26,000 added 3YO fillies 7f Penalty Value 24,	,500
0	CASSANDRA GO (197) (Trevor C Stewart) G Wrang 8 77	M Roberts 9
	CHAMBRE SEPAREE (USA) (165) (Mes F. Rausny) G Wagg 5 To	P Robinson 4
	DESDEMONA (190) (Chaveley Park Soud) G Wrang & IT	D Holland 14
	EN SILENCE (USA) (Edity State) I Noseda 8 11	Part Eddery 1
06-	FANTASTIC BELLE (198) (Or Carbs 5 Stelling) P Makin 6 7	S Sanders 13
	GOLD ANGEL (Maxitourn A) Maxitourn) & Duniso 3 ft	W Rysn 11
	INSINUATE (USA) (* Abduda) H 22 3 8 11	K Fation 10
	MOSS UNIVERSITY (USA) (Barnard Burn C Wall 5 ft	4 Whetan 3
	MOSS ROSE (Mrs A D Soume) 8 Hat 8 ff	. M Halls 7
24	MUSICAL TREAT (258) (F.E. Sangster) P Chapple-Hy2T, 9 TT	J Fortune 12
ý-	PEARL BARLEY (193) (Society Marcana) C Burtain 8 11	T Sprake B
64-	RIMBA (USA) (250) (George Strampringe) J Gosden & R	L Dettori 5
	SPOONFUL OF SUGAR (158) (W.) Greckey C Cycle 8 ft	T Quinn 0
	SULALAT (312) (Hamoso Ar Mol Hum) F Armstrong 2 11 .	R HIEs 2

- 14 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Musical Treat. 9-2 Rimba, 13-2 instituate. 10-1 Gold Angel, Subdat, 12-1 Moss Rose, Spoonful Of Sugar, 14-1 others 1998 - Sultana 3-6-11 R Pernam 50-1 (J G Smyth-Ostoburne) drawn (IQ G ran

FORM VERDICT

Institute and Gold Angel Not likely sorts on breeding, and Chambre Separae looks the pich of the those Geoff Wragg entries, However, the form horse MUSICAL TREAT has reportedly wintered well and with her 1000 Guineas aspirations, she gets

4.45 NGK SPARK PLUGS BARTLOW MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 26,000 added 2YO fillies 5f Pensity Value £4.305 BRIN ANAM CARA (Prayer And A Song Synd) D Cosgrive & To ... HOH DEAR (D.F. Alport, M. Belt 6 TI

6 INDEDVEDO (20) Formers Toamaiel J Fearce 6 TI JANICELANO (Cable Meda Consultancy) 5 Astrawel 8 TI LADY SARKA (Thurbe Thomasycreets IV) 6 Harmon 8 TI K Fallon 0 R Hughes NASAISE (Saeed Marana) C Entran 9 H NEVER DISS MISS (Mr.) A remail R Westerns 9 H U HWs 9 PUSSIE WILLOW (Major C resrbury) P Cale 6 71 T Ordina (
BETTING, 7-2 Seazum, 4-1 Pussle Willow, 5-1 Indeedyado, Lady Sarka, 8-1 Hoft Dear, Nasalab 10-1 Naver Dies Miss, 12-1 others
1998 Ja 8 n T Chara Sarka

1998 Jag 8 ft 7 Quant 3-1 (P Cole) drawn (9) 7 i Jil

FORM VERDICT

Paul Cole took this 12 months ago and can repeal the lear with the speedily-bred PUSSIE WILLOW, the selected of his time- fine-day entries. Seazum represents the Mick Channon yard that has already had five winning governles, but she is still a fortunght short of her second brithday. Hot Dear and Nasaleb look the most otherest-

5.20 WOOD DITTON STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) \$7,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £4,988

CLOUDY SKY (Loro Wenstoon Str. U. Struct 9.0) EASTERN CHAMP (USA) (Fix Li Chair S Maioss 9 0 HARLEQUIN DANCER (CIT'S Racing Partnersho) J Gosdan 9 0. L Dettori KARINGA PRINCE IC F Sparrowtawk, I'l L Modie 9.0 OCTANE (USA) (Bathiam Danni, Shooting Ceol 9.0 K Fellon ORO STREET (Osiabo Pegroni 4 meleka), 90 P Fredericks (5) : ROMAN CANOLE (Exists in the Salvin Symplectic C 982 9 C WOODCOTE WARRIOR A 5 Party System 9 9 Dane O Neil Pat Eddery 6 SNOWY RANGE (USA) (Heartone, Share I hased) \$ 9 W Rysn 9 SPANKER (5.0) Holingsworth Elimb (5.3) SWEET EMOTION (May four) A May four) El Curior (6.9) D Holland 10

- 12 declares -BETTING: 3-1 Cloudy Siry, Octane, 4-1 Keratba, 13-2 Spanker, 8-1 Eastern Champ. Harlequin Dance 16-1 Snowy Range, 14-1 Sweel Emotion, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Samy Hills has done were or this race in recent years and his Keralba is an interesting soil on paper but EASTERN CHAMP .. also it poiled to have been working and is preterred. The Stoute and Carolined and Christians, Cloudy Sky and Octane,

HYPERION'S 2.05: Kumait's rider, Richard Hills, should have little difficulty in taking up a prominent posi-TV TIPS tioo against the far rail, which

straight course yesterday. Fursupport if the threatened rains ther rain would harm this one's arrived in earnest. The Tote's chances, however. Soft ground would oot inconvenieoce SALTY JACK. Ray Cochrane offer of 14-1 attracts.

CHELTENHAM 2.20: Richard Dunwoody's

mount. Mootroe, merits respect bere, particularly as the grey is at his best in the spring. RELKANDER has takeo time to get the hang of feuces, but displayed improved form to beat e well-regarded Heavens Above at Newbury last time.

Haami would be the chief beneficiary of heavy rain. But the safest bet here looks Frankie

2.55: In Truth signalled that a return to top form was imminent when running well for a long way in the Kim Muir at the Chel-Dettori's ride, HANDSOME tenham Festival four weeks ago. But it's hard to igoore the claims of GIGI BEACH, a pro-3.10: The form of UNDEgressive stayer from a yard otill maintaining a high strike-rate.

> 3.30: Ashgan is described as a quirky character by his trainer. but Tony McCov will get the best out of this six-year-old, who ruined his chance with a slow start last time. However, Norman Williamsoo looks to be on the winner here. WILMOTT'S FANCY. This mare was not disgraced when third at Newbury last month, five lengths behind winner Flagship Therese.

FIRST SHOW

Newmarket 2.05							Newmarket 2.35				
	C	н	<u>.</u>	S	т	i		C	H.	L	_s_
Daylight in Duba Hammonic Way	9-1		8-1 8-1		13-2 9-1		White Head Haami	7-2 75-3	7 .2 7.0	3-1 3-1	7-2 4-1
Stanott	7-1	7-1	7-1	_ 7-1	18-1	1	riandsome Ridg	7.2	7:2		7-2
Al Muslim	10-1	12-1	8-1	10-1	12-1	ı	Shira	<u>n</u> 2	11-2	6-1	n-2
Epson Cyclone	10-1	11-1	31-1	12-1	n-1		Duck Row	13-2	_8_1	_&1	7-1
Return Of Amin	10-1	B-1	B-1	11-1	12-1	ł	Alboostan	1Ç-1	<u>8-1</u>	11-1	8-1
Sainy Jack	12-1	9-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	ı	Lear Spear	10-1	Π-1	10-1	12-1
Showboal	12-1	11-1	10-1	12-1	10-1		Green Card Dower House	14-1 33-1	14-1 33-1	14-1	23-1
Free Option	12-1	12-1	14-1	TJ-1	11-1			-			
Kumeti	12-1	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	ĺ	Eachway a	40-1	40-1		40-1
Daunting Lady	14-1	14-1	18-1	16-1	14-1	ו	C Caral H Wm H				
Emerging Mk1	141	14-1	<u>16-1</u>	14-1	12-1]	-				7
Turnblewd Ridge	15-1	16-1	12-1	16-1	12:1	١,					
No Extras	30-1	25-1	25-1	18-1	20-1		New	ma	rket	3.1	0
Astrac	33-1	25-1	33-1	29-1	25₁				н		9

ASEST.		<u>ه</u>	33-1	31	<u> </u>		Н	S
Dushanbe Out to Street		25-1				Vision Of Night	7.4	2-1
Omahu City Testium		29-1 28-1				Bertolini	3-1	N-4
Terneraire		40-1				Undeterrad	4-1	4-1
Eachway a				Indiana Legend	9-2	9-2		
C Coral H Wm						Kelleada	10-1	91
<u> </u>			_	_		Caballaro	IC-1	12-1
Ne	wms	rket	3.4	5		Each-way, a qua	nter the cold	ı. places 1, 2
	C	Н	L	S	T			
Albench	7-2	4-1	4-1	4-1	31	Chelte	enham	2.55
Haur	مه	9.0	4-1	4-1	9.2		Сн	1 8 1

Albanah					3.
Albench	7.2	4-1	<u>4-1</u>	4-1	31
<u> </u>	_92	9-2	4-1	41	9-2
Rainbow Ways	_+1	92	+1	7-2	<u>41</u>
Minives	6-1	77-2	11-2	13-2	6-1
Lencer	8-1	.7-1	8-1	8-1	<u>6-1</u>
Wave Of Optim	10-1	12:1	12-1	12-1	14-1
St Lawrence	14-1	14-1	16-1_	<u>14-1</u>	14-1
Just in Time	16 -1	16-1	14-1	<u>18-1</u>	<u>地</u> [
First Master	16-1	14-1	14-1	16-1	20-1
Glory Of Granvi	¥ 16-1	14-1	16-1	20-1	<u> 20-1</u>
Baurod	251	35-1	<u> 38-1</u>	25-1	25-1
Beaumont	33-1	25-1	33-1	<u>æ1</u>	26-1
Gen Assembly	33-1	33 - <u>1</u>	40-1	40-1	40- <u>1</u>
Бастыву, а ф	APP I	ne odiđ	s, pileo	es 1, 2,	3

Coole Hill 7-2 3-1 7-2 7-2 4-1 Gigi Beach 7-2 4-1 7-2 7-2 7-2 Krimahalia 92 92 54 92 92 Moorland Highlily 7-1 13-2 13-2 13-2 13-2 Malwood Castle 8-1 8-1 8-1 7-1 8-2 <u>in linuth 91 91 10-1 10-1 9-1</u> Paration 10-1 10-1 9-1 18-1 8-1 The Gapher 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 God Speed You 14-1 16-1 18-1 14-1 18-1 Father Sky 16-1 20-1 16-1 20-1 20-1 Each way a fifth the oxids, places, 1, 2, 3

Petit and Vieira can tilt the balance

IN ONE dressing-room at least, tain satisfaction from preservthe sight of Arsenal and Manchester United slugging each All the more so after battling other into a barren, hruising stalemate, necessitating their only 10 men following the almost return to Villa Park tonight to equally customary red card, in- one, can envisage going to 120 find out who will face Newcastle in next month's FA Cup final, was a cause for rejoicing.

It was not United's, where the incredulity of Alex Ferguson and his Trehle-seeking side over the flag of inconvenience which ruled out a valid "goal" was compounded by the realisation that they would have to into an already congested

ing their customary clean sheet. through most of extra time with curred by Nelson Vivas.

No, the only real beneficiaries of Sunday's attritional struggle United's European Cup semi-Chelsea. Gianluca Vialli's team went out to take on Wimbledon heartened by the thought of their principal rivals for the fit a sanoing semi-final replay championship being forced to go through it all over again.

While the Premiership's top Nor was it Arsenal's, even if two lock horns once more, in a know about each other, he was



The main beneficiaries of the FA Cup semi-final replay at Villa Park tonight are likely to be Chelsea. By Phil Shaw

minutes and a penalty shootout, Chelsea have the chance to steal above them both at the top -with the arguable exception of of the table by winning at Middleshrough. For whoever loses final opponents. Juventus - were at Villa Park, the psychological impact could be doubly dam-

The United manager described the outcome of their first meeting as "a predictable result". In so far as there is little that the rival camps do not the Cup holders derived a cer- contest which Ferguson, for probably right. Yet the Double

winners have enjoyed such an unusually good record against the Old Trafford club - four victories and an away draw in the five previous meetings - that United's superiority on Sunday may have surprised even Fer-

The key to their dominance was the midfield axis of Nicky Butt and Roy Keane. Butt, out of favour recently, highlighted the depth of United's squad by combining his usual combativeness with some excellent

to be a far more even duel for control. Arsène Wenger welcomes hack Emmanuel Petit alongside Patrick Vieira after suspension, and his biting presence and capacity for getting between the respective penalthe pressure on Tony Adams and company hut provide greater attacking impetus.

Ferguson has pondered "freshening up" his line-up. The only definite change will come at left-back, where Denis

Tonight, however, promises Irwin has a leg injury. Phil Neville is a ready-made deputy. though if it comes down to the lottery of spot-kicks, his penalty-taking prowess is unlikely to match Irwin's.

Talking of which. Dwight Yorke's last goal at Villa Park ty areas should not only ease was an audaciously chipped penalty over the diving David Seaman in what proved his final home game in the claret and blue. Such confidence typified Yorke throughout the autumn and winter hut has deserted him of late. Since Sea-

man has now gone 673 minutes without conceding a goal, Ferguson needs the Tobagan to snap out of his spring languor as a matter of urgency. Marc Overmars, something

of a scourge to United prior to Sunday, would be a greater loss to the Gunners than Irwin to their opponents if he is indisposed by an injured ankle. The onus would then be on Dennis Bergkamp to give Nicolas Anelka stronger support. Bergkamp, though, must first escape the pocket Jaap Stam

The recent history of matches between the clubs, pitted by outbreaks of ill feeling (Ian Wright v Peter Schmeichel.

Wenger v Ferguson), favours Arsenal and a repeat of last year's Wembley date with Newcastle. But while United cannot match the Tyneside club's 52-year unbeaten record in semi-finals. they have not lost in 15 such matches (eight of them at Villa Park) since the late Billy Bremner decided a three match epic in Leeds' favour 29 years ago.

It appears to be a case of the immovable object, Seaman's fabled guardians, against the irresistible force of Beckham and Giggs, Keane and Cole, but tonight, something has to give The longer it takes, the more the victors' celebrations are likely to be echoed on Chelsea's return from Teesside.

European place for fair play

UNDER WRAPS at Premier BY MARK BRADLEY League headquarters lies the most up-to-date league table in a competition that offers the chance of a coveted place in

Europe next season. rules of which are baffling in their detail, but it could still hold places. out a multi-million pound lifeline to clubs otherwise denied a route into the Uefa Cup.

While Sheffield Wednesday, Liverpool and Wimhledon may have thought European qualiseason, they actually lead the way in the domestic league along with Manchester United and even Arsenal, despite the Gunners' tally of red cards.

In an attempt to foster the traditional spirit of the game, European football's governing body has decreed that three places in. next season's revamped Uefa Cup will be on offer to teams with . Arsenal (7.98), Liverpool (7.95) the best fair play records.

Every game played hy a country or club in European competition is painstakingly marked in six different categories - red and yellow cards. positive play, respect towards opponents, respect towards referees, behaviour of team officials and crowd behaviour.

This started almost two years ago and forthcoming games until the end of May still count - including Manchester United's European Cup ties and Chelsea's encounters in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

A record is kept of every country's average score and the leading nation gains an automatic place in the Uefa Cup, while a host of other high-scoring countries enter a ballot for two remaining places.

However, these European berths do not go to sides finishing high up in the Premiership, Serie A or the Scottish Premier League. They are given to the teams who win their country's domestic fair play league, disregarding any clubs who have already qualified by other means such as winning a cup.

In Uefa's most recent table from January. Scotland led the way - setting them up for an automatic European place if they keep ahead of the likes of Norway, Estonia and Finland before June - with Kilmarnock at the top of the latest domes-

England, who suffered from Paul Ince's sending-off and crowd trouble in Sweden last

Unless England can top the table or by contrast fall by the wayside, they will therefore It is the fair play table, the enter the ballot in early June for the two remaining Uefa Cup

If successful, with a roughly 20 per cent chance of being drawn out of the hat alongside about 10 other countries with an average points tally of eight -England had 8.16 in January fication was beyond them this a Premiership club would then 'qualify for Europe.

The current full domestic table has not been revealed by the Premier League but the top five, as at 31 March, have been disclosed.

Manchester United are currently top with an average of 8.17 points out of 10, followed hy Sheffield Wednesday (8.01), and Wimbledon (7.93).

.While red and yellow cards count against clubs, marks can be gained through attacking play, respecting refereeing decisions, helping injured opponents, being good winners or losers and fostering a healthy crowd atmosphere.

Observers are on hand to mark each Premiership game until the end of the season, so several clubs still have everything to play for - even if their chances of Europe may ultimately come down to a lottery.

The Tartan Army have been warned their future conduct could determine whether a Scottish club gains an additional

Uefa Cup place next season. The Scottish Football Association has stressed that Scotland's hopes of leading the European-wide fair play standings could be damaged hy crowd conduct.

That comes after Scotland month jeered their own captain, Gary McAllister, and failed to observe the Czech Republic's national anthem. McAllister has since retired from international football but the SFA is concerned that any repetition of such behaviour from supporters will be counter-productive.

The Scots led Uefa's fair play rankings at the halfway stage of the season, meaning the team currently ahead in the list north of the border. Kilmarnock at the last count, would make Europe.

SFA spokesman Mitchell said: "Uefa base their list on all competitive matches



Dennis Wise returns from suspension tonight as Chelsea aim to go top of the Premiership with a win against Middlesbrough

Vialli proud to be a contender

HAVING SIDLED up quietly on the rails in the title race, Chelsea have the chance to put themselves back into pole posupporters at Parkhead last sition at the top of the Premiership with victory at Middlesbrough tonight.

Just a month ago, player-manager Gianluca Vialli ruled out his side's chances of winning the championship after defeat at home to West Ham left them seven points behind Manchester United, even if they still had a game in hand.

Even two weeks ago, Chelsea were as high as 8-1 for the title as the two supposed heavy-weights in the field. United and Arsenal, contested the lead.

However a fifth consecutive away League win, at Boro, would take Chelsea top for the first time since early Janshown to Liverpool and Arsenal. and we deplore the actions of the uary and leave them a point small minority at Celtic Park clear of United, even if they third while Wales were 12th and which will have had an impact." would have then played a

BY MARK PIERSON

game more than Alex Ferguson's side.

As United and Arsenal prepared for a second exhausting match within the space of four days in their FA Cup semifinal replay at Villa Park, Vialli was still continuing an apparently self-imposed vow of silence. Perhaps due to the furore over the gaoling of Graham Rix. perhaps to keep the spotlight off his team or to relieve the pressure on himself.

the normally loquacious Italian has missed press conferences. The coach. Ray Wilkins, has stepped in to meet the media over recent weeks in a tactic used by the Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, back in December when his side faced a perilous series of games against fellow title contenders.

And the situation has hard-

ly been helped by confirmation from Uefa, European football's governing body, that they would be reviewing a video of the in-cident in which Dennis Wise was seen attempting to hite the arm of Real Mallorca defender

Elena Marcelino last Thursday. Wise may incur a two-match ban that would rule him out of the Cup-Winners' Cup semifinal second leg as well as any possible final appearance if a disciplinary hearing is, as expected, held later this week. So with no Press confer-

ence arranged ahead of tonight's game, the only way of ascertaining Vialli's thoughts on his side's title chances was to scan his programme notes ahead of last week's tie against Mallorca. In them, he stressed the im-

portance of the sequence of four away games on which his side had embarked after the 1-0 de-

feat by the Hammers. "We're Chelsea will travel full of retrying our best to keep up with Manchester United and Arsenal and so many away games makes things a little difficult," he wrote. "But looking at the way we've started the four, six

points from the first two gives me confidence for the future. It's getting very tight up there in the table and that's obviously very exciting for all the supporters. It's a great feeling and something to be proud of for the club still to be in contention."

Having admitted Chelsea were indeed back in cootention. victory at Wimhledon last Sunday served only to confirm that fact and another away win tomorrow night would complete the four-match sequence.

Boro, who still have to play United and Arsenal at the Riverside, have only been beaten at home once this season in newed confidence.

Wise and Marcel Desailly, who missed the 2-1 victory at Wimhledon through suspension, will be available again to

reinforce the spine of the team. And midfielder Gustavo Poyet is set to start his second game since his return from a lengthy injury lay-off, having scored his 12th goal of the campaign at Selhurst Park to make him the cluh's second top goalscorer alongside Gianfranco Zola.

The full-back Albert Ferrer who came off injured against Real Mallorca hut was an unused substitute at Wimhledon, may also be back in contention. However, the midfielder Ce-

lestine Babayaro is likely to face a fitness test after missing the cluh's past four games with a groin problem and then a chest

customs in Spain." Amato did score in the New

Year Old Firm derby, but has remained an occasional substitute under Dick Advocaat. Earlier this term there was interest from Leicester in the player, but now Valencia are believed to be his most likely future destination. The man who managed Amato during his successful spell in Mallorca, Hector Cupar, is heing

Amato's Rangers' teammate, Lionel Charbonnier, has resumed training after knee ligament damage sustained in November, while the American midfielder Claudio Reyna, Rangers' 22m signing from Wolfsburg, has now arrived in Glasgow. However, the transfer was not completed in time for

Woodgate's tribute to Radebe McCarthy prepared

LEEDS UNITED'S highly rated The South African interna- he's always got a smile on his teenage defender. Jonathon tional who turned 30 yesterday Woodgate, is refusing to con- and celebrated the occasion cede that his side can no longer ' with the man of the match win the Premiership - and says award, faced Liverpool just his enthusiasm is thanks to over 48 hours after playing for the bubbly optimism of his caphies country against Gabon in an

tain, Lucas Radebe. Leeds were unable to extend their winning streak to eight matches on Monday night after being held to a goalless draw by Liverpool at Elland Road. around him. "Lucas Radebe David O'Leary's side now find was outstanding," Woodgate themselves six points adrift of admitted. "He's a great player the leaders, Manchester Unit- to play alongside because he ed, with only six games left to . makes it so easy for you. play – but Woodgate is refusing to throw in the towel.

out of the infectious enthusiasm happy around the place. He's which has been generated by Radehe, Woodgate's central defensive partner.

African Nations' Cup tie.

And Woodgate believes that when a player shows such dedication to duty, it is easy to see why it should run off on those

"I learn from him every single day, not only about football Such confidence is borne but in other ways as he's always excellent in training and he shows what an outstanding unbeaten in the League since player he is oo the pitch, but early February.

"He's a jolly person who helps pick you up when you're having a down moment - but he can also give you a rollocking as well."

So with matches at home to Alex Ferguson's side and fellow title challengers Arsenal and Chelsea still to come, the 19-year-old Woodgate is confident Leeds are not out of the championship running yet.

"I don't think it was too much to expect for us to keep the winning run going," revealed Woodgate. "That's the way it goes in football. You can't win every one.

"But the main thing is we

didn't get beaten and so are still

lenge for the title - we're at of Ireland manager, has named least going to have a hig say in it - I'd like to think we are still in with a chance. "We are a young, confident side, so we are going to be and

think like that. Now we can't wait for the hig teams. We play better when they are at Elland Road. We rise to the occasion." Leeds' Norwegian international Gunnar Halle will undergo a second scan today on the left knee he injured during

An initial ultrasound scan yesterday appears to have confirmed there is no ligament damage. However, the specialist has told the 33-year-old to also have an MRI scan to make absolutely certain.

ا مكذا من الاصل

"Hopefully, we can still chal- MICK McCARTHY, the Republic we have not played a match a full-strength 20-man squad for the friendly against Sweden at Lansdowne Road on 28 April hut he admits he will be relying on the co-operation of English club managers for the release

of several players involved in

vital promotion and relegation games. "It would be naïve of me not to think that there could be problems over player releases," the first half of Monday night's

he said. "But I am not going to go looking for those problems. "My duty is to select the best players available but I am dependent on the good will of club

managers. "Because of the postpone ment of our European Championship game against Macedonia scheduled for Skopje last month,

since 12 February. That makes the Swedish fixture all the more important in our preparation for the European Championship ties at home to Yugoslavia and Macedonia in June."

Alex Ferguson may not be keen to release Denis Irwin and Roy Keane with Manchester United still involved in the hunt for three major trophies.

The same applies to David O'Leary at Leeds who will want to retain Ian Harte as a vital part of his hid to win a place in Europe's elite next season.

The Wolves striker Robbie Keane, currently with the Republic's Under-20 side at the World Cup finals in Nigeria, will almost certainly be required by his club as they attempt to reach the First Division play-offs.

Blackburn are likely to insist that Jason McAteer, Lee Carsley and Damien Duff stay at Ewood Park with Brian Kidd's men fighting to avoid relegation and the same argument could be applied in the cases of Mark Kinsella (Charlton) and Gary Breen (Coventry),

McCarthy, therefore, has

named four players on standby: Dean Kiely of Bury, Bradford's Gareth Whalley. Wimbledon's Mark Kennedy wimbleoon's Mark Kennedy and Steve Finnan of Fulham. REPUBLIC OF RELAND SOUAD (v Sweden, friendly, Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 28 April): Given (Newcastic). Kelly (Shefred Urd), srain (Nanchester Urd), Carri (Sottenbari), Staunton (Uwerpool), Harte (Leeds), Cunningham (Vilmbledon), Breen (Coventry), Babb (Liverpool), Keane (Monchester Urd), McAbeer (Buctourn), Khaelin (Charlton), McLoughlin (Portsmouth), Carsley (Blackburn), Carriey (Blackburn), Cassearino (Nancy), Keane (Wolves), O'Nelli (Middicsbrough), Connolly (Wolves), Standbur, Middicsbrough)

Larsson happy to remain at Celtic

BY GORDAN LYLE

HENRIK LARSSON has signed a new four-year contract with Celtic. The Swedish striker, leading scorer in Scotland this season with 37 goals, has been a revelation since his £600,000 arrival at the Glasgow club two years ago from Feyenoord.

Larsson has always emphasised he is settled at Celtic and now it appears a revised offer to the player has paid dividends for the Scottish champions. The 27-year-old international added that this will be the last deal he will sign before returning to finish his career in Sweden. Apart from the boost it

gives to Celtic's push for the double, it is also a fillip for the Scottish game. After a season when a number of leading players have criticised the standard of football north of the border Larsson criticised the doubters.

"When I came over here I. wasn't in my national team," he ; said. 'I started playing well here and after that I was picked for Sweden, so Scottish football has worked for me. We have 60,000 fans watching us every week and the stadium is a great arena to play in. Also, if we get into Europe, it is a higher level still and I am happy to be here.

Larsson could come to an agreement with the Glasgow club's owner, Fergus McCann. whose abrasive style did not suit the Swede. However, Mc-Cann has now been replaced as chief executive hy Allan Mac-Donald and he wasted no time.

in persuading Larsson to stay. "It took a little bit longer than I first thought," Larsson said. "But the effort of Mr MacDonald and the Celtic board made it an easy decision. Four years is a long time to commit your-self and I had to discuss it thoroughly with my family and friends. The club is aiming to do well in Europe and I have a

great belief that we will:" On the blue side of the Scottish city, Rangers' unsettled Argentinian striker Gabriel Amato has declared his wish to return to Spain at the end of the season after issuing a damning verdict on the Scottish game. The £4.2m summer capture from Real Mallorca has struggled for both form and fitness since arriving at Ibrox.

Amato outlined his view in the newspaper Marca that the Scottish Premier League compares poorly with the Spanish top flight. The criticism comes despite the player being unable to make an impression in Scotland, with only four goals. He said: "I'm clear in my mind I would like to return to Spain, especially if I win the title with Rangers. Scottish football bears no comparison with the Spanish game and I prefer the

lined up to manage Valencia next term.

him to be eligible for the Scottish Cup final with Celtic in May THE INDEPENDENT,

See Section Colleges in the section of the section

return from Teesside Larsson happy to remain at Celtie, BY GORDAN LYLE

HENRIK LARSSON has as a new four-year contract Cellic. The Swedish and leading scorer in Scotlants season with 37 goals hat. - -- elation since his muine Glasgow dute year ago from Fevenour Larsion has always one sisenine is settled at Cette? now it suppears a revised etc. in player has paid dividence uie Scottesh champions i - ... ear cio international ac De the last des "L. 1.50 before returned

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When I came over he. - a listamed playing # net outed after that I was per : Sectos de Scottes de la contra della contra de la contra de la contra de la contra de la contra della contra de la contra de la contra de la contra de la contra della contr the worked for me. We have of the land watching is not only exception being the pools. and a series of play in Alsa. det unto Europe, t &. spil and lands

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had to distra and the Europe and the The Late of the Real West in the specific or the den Bangers we 223 101 Anderson and Street G 100 and the dead area his the 48000 Sound the the $-\pm y = 0$ SSUE SSUE 30.45 A SOUTH E 11.75.2 stations best C2*** $(7.25\%)^{11}$ Color See See See See See and the a. firm 1.00 a med in of Great and a second Par miler League $\{22,28\}$ 10 10 M $\mathcal{O} \to \mathcal{O}$ ne uriticisii is Section 1997 Section 1997 0.1945 Trassion b 4.5 all fold side the clear in man . . . create in the side $y_{ij} \in \mathcal{X}_{ij}$ $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{A}}(F, \mathcal{A})$ Scotlish M Section 13 Comments of the and low and the state of t Spain

Versi Cita Francisco was trad in occasion The state of the same Continue this lead that mineral international but now lales out now the most 1.84 source destination. טינייר Will Think and Angle 1557 Head of the manage page. 10.25 r: . . . nevi lenn Acres Reflects 197°C Living Charles 抗糖 $\mathbf{j}_{i}^{(k)}(t)$ Jan 2 should 7.5 American with the pro-Can Tilliel Oct Childh PARSETS OF THE STATE OF We was the first that the first that

Garage House in the control of the c

lance FA ready Sensi and a repeat of law with live sensition of the control of th title 'bet'

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION will be asking for an explanation from the Leeds United manager, David O'Leary, following his comments last night about an alleged bet placed on the outcome of the Premiership title

Following the goalless draw between O'Leary's side and Liverpool at Elland Road on Monfelt would win the Premiership.

O'Leary's response was: "I've got £100 on Manchester United, so I'd better stick with them, I took a bet at the start of the season, so that's who my money is on."

But the 41-year-old Irishman yesterday claimed his comment was a light-hearted aside, saying: "If people can't take jokes...

The onus will be on the FA to prove that O'Leary did have a bet. Their spokesman Steve Double said: "We want to investigate the circumstances of this. Our rules on betting are very clear and have been very well publicised in recent times. so no one should be in any doubt. Those involved in football - be it players, managers or officials - must not bet on foothall matches."

The rule came into force following Sir John Smith's report which was carried out in the wake trials of John Fashanu, Hans Segers and Bruce Grobbelaar, who were ter cleared of charges of natch-fixing.

In Sir John's it was clearly stated that no player or manager should bet on anything in relation to the game, with the

The Wimbledon manager, Joe Kinnear, was the last person to come close to falling foul of the rule after his side's 2-1 win over Chelsea in the quarter-finals of the Worthington Cup in December, when he said: "We are 5-2 now (to win the Cupi. We were 66-1 at the start and I think a few of the lads had

a few guid on us." Kinnear later clarified his remark by saying the comment related to friends of his and not

the Wimbledon players. The Chelsea player-coach, Gianluca Vialli, yesterday

By IAN PARKES

launched his £1.5m libel case

against the Roma coach. Zdenek Zeman, over allegations of doping.

Vialli, who was absent from the Rome court but represented by his lawyer, took exception day night, the Leeds manager to comments made by Zeman in was asked on television who he a magazine last year. The Czech coach warned in an interview about the dangers of certain substances being used in Serie A and then expressed his surprise at the muscle development of Vialli and the current Juventus player Alessandro Del Piero.

In response Vialli branded Zeman "a terrorist" - a slight which prompted the coach to take reciprocal legal action against the Cbelsea man.

As usual in Italy, the first audience was devoted to technical aspects of the case, which became inevitable after attempts at mediation failed. The next session before the judge Lucia Fanti is scheduled for 12 November.

Aston Villa have announced plans to expand Villa Park's capacity to more than 50,000 seats. The proposals, including a new shopping, hotel and industrial complex, would see the present 39,372 capacity rise by 11,000 and would create around 1,000 jobs.

An Aston Villa spokesman said: "The benefits of the football club's plans for the region's economy are well-known, as is the added prestige of attracting international games to the city." Villa Park is already the

venue for this season's European Cup-Winners' Cup final. The FA Premier League Hall of Fame has joined forces with the Football League in a £250.000 deal designed to extend the spirit of the Hall across the country. Last year the Football League announced their 100 all-time great players and that roll-call of distinction will be incorporated in the Hall of Fame when it opens on 12 June at London's County Hall. The deal provides

the Foothall League with

£50,000 a season for the next

Rusedski back for the Stella GREG RUSEDKSI managed not TENNIS

Michael Chang struggles to beat Michael Hill in the first round of the Japan Open yesterday

to wince yesterday as be and BY JOHN ROBERTS Tim Henman confirmed that they would lead the Britisb challenge at the £470,000 Stella angered by Rusedski's secretive Artois Championsbips at behaviour with regard to treat-Queen's Club, London, from 7 ment in the days prior to Wim-bledon. Rusedski was later able to 13 June. to joke about the "two months' The Stella tournament has painful memories for Rusedski. holiday" be had as a result of the

His Wimbledon prospects were wrecked at Queen's last year wben he injured his left ankle in a fall during a third-round match against Laurence Tieleman, an Italian qualifier, only 10 days before the Championships at the All England Club were due to start.

Rusedski's attempt to compete at Wimbledon, where he was the No 4 seed, ended with his retirement during a firstround match against Mark Draper, of Australia. This was followed by a split with his coach, Tony Pickard, who was

England Club. Currently ranked No 62 in the world, Becker is a part-time player on

Pete Sampras, the five-times Wimbledon champion, has asked the promoters of the Stella tournament to reserve a wild card for him, as he did last year. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the Australian Open champion, is listed among the early entries for

the 56-draw Stella singles bile. along with Goran Ivanisevic, a three-times Wimbledon finalist. and previous Queen's winners Todd Martio. Mark Philippoussis and Scott Draper. Michael Chang and Thomas Enqvist are also in the list The Spaniard Alex Corretja

tumbled out of the Barcelona Open yesterday, losing 7-6, S-3 in the second round to Morocco's Younes El Avnaoui.

Last season's French Open finalist made a string of un-

Wierham centre, who had been tanned for a year by the Welsh District RU for assaulting a referee. Oswestry initially claimed that Roberts had been mistaken for their New

Zealand centre Terry Smith but they decided not to contest the matter at a disciplinary meeting on Mon-

SPEEDWAY

CRAVEN SHEED: Violve hampton 48 hing's Lynn 42

INTERNATIONAL MATCH (Exeter): England Under-21 35 Sweden Under-23 55

TENNIS

forced errors to be broken twice in the first set. He broke back each time but the Moroccan, more mobile around the court, won the set, comfortably on the tie-break

The Spaniard continued to struggle in the second set, particularly on his backhand. He was broken in the fourth game, flashing an attempted pass wide on break point.

The tall Moroccan pressed bome his advantage, serving out his remaining games.

Corretja's compatriot. Albert Costa, winner in Estoril last week, underlined his potential with a smooth 6-3, 6-2 firstround win over Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi.

In Tokyo vesterday, Michael Chang struggled to squeeze out a three-set victory over the unheralded Australian Michael Hill in a windswept first-round match in the Japan Open.

Wray pledges his loyalty to Saracens

NIGEL WRAY last night reassured his first love, Saracens, that he would remain faithful to them. His promise came after the millionaire owner of the north London club severed all ties with Nottingham Forest, the club resting at the bottom of football's Premiership.

Wray, who has donated a reported £8m to the Saracens cause in just over three years, stepped down as chairman of Forest's plc board yesterday and said: "Saracens is my first love. Rugby union is a game I played for 30 years. I remain absolutely committed to Saracens and I will see the job through.

"Regarding Forest, I was a member of a consortium and invested in a good football club. I am an entrepreneurial investor who likes to be involved in running things. I have holdings in an awful lot of companies, but I am not a passive investor. Soon after the start of the football season I began to believe that the football club needs to be run by people from the local community. I am not a Midlan-

der, I am a north Londoner." In fact Wray lives less than five miles from Saracens' headquarters in Southgate and played the bulk of his rugby with Old Millhillians. He took over at Saracens in 1995, in the first season of professional rugby, when he made an initial investment of £2m and underRUGBY UNION

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

wrote a further £500,000 share Since then he has had to put his hand in his pocket on a number of other occasions as he pursued his dream which be claimed was: "to play a Euro-

pean Cup semi-final against

one of the top French clubs in a big stadium. The club has certainly shifted nearer that goal. Under Wray's eye the club has moved twice, first along the road to Enfield Foothall Club and then to Watford, where they bave been attracting five figure

crowds to the 20,000-capacity Vicarage Road stadium. However, Wray maintained: "Although I probably own 80 to 85 per cent of Saracens I generally avoid the word 'ownership. The club belongs to the members and supporters. We bave come a long way, but the job is only half done an we

must not stand still." Wray, whose place on the Forest board is to be taken by the Nottingham businessman Eric Barnes, insisted his departure had nothing to with their dreadful season, "I did not cut my bes with Forest because they have had an unsuccessful season. I had been in talks with Eric Barnes for the

Buoyant Britain in line for gold

PETER WOODS urged his Great Britain side to take control of their own destiny after they virtually assured themselves of at least the bronze medal in Pool B following a 6-2 World Championship victory over Estonia in Copenhagen.

With favourites Germany suffering a shock 6-1 defeat gainst host nation Denmark, Britain now lie joint second and victory over Poland, who have yet to win a game, will put them in the running for gold.

the Germans.

ture the gold medal."

ICE HOCKEY

A start that saw Woods' men score three times in the opening three minutes laid the foundations for a perfect response to Sunday's narrow defeat by

"In the first three games we played very solid defensively but had trouble scoring goals," said Woods. "So this was very positive for us and the result has put us in control of our own destiny. If we win the remainder of our games we will cap-

After Sheffield Steelers' David Longstaff scored the opener, Jeff Johnstone, of Bracknell, claimed his first goal in a British shirt.

Kevin Conway added a third before Estonia scored during a period when Britain relaxed their grip on the game.

Estonia had an excellent chance to haul themselves back into the match when they were awarded a penalty shot. But Bill Morrison, replacing the rested Stevie Lyle in goal, turned away the Estonian shot.

Britain made Estonia pay for the miss when their captain, Steve Moria, netted a powerplay fourth almost immediately and Johnstone scored his second to make it 5-1.

Again Britain allowed their opponeots to pull ooe back, but Graham Garden put the tie out of reach with a short-handed sixth with eight minutes remaining.

SPORTING DIGEST

BASEBALL AMPRICAN LEAGUE: Ceveland 5 Kansas
City 2 (10 innings), Minnesora 1 Derroit
100 Samuel
1 BASKETBALL NBAL Boscon 103 Cleveland B9; Indiana 109 Roronto 99; Charlotte 92 Detroit 66; Houston 95 Marnesota 90; San Antonio 94 Phoenix 77; Golden State 104 Denver 96; Utah 98 Vancouver 80.

five years.

BOWLS

BOWLS

MEN'S ALL ENGLANO CHAMPTONSHIPS (Melicoe Moewbray) Triples
quarter-finats: alsocpool Borough IN
Burrows) by Worthing Pavillion (9
Graymayi 22-15, Grandham (D-Auchland)
bt East Dorset (N-Iones) 18-15; Chipping
Norron IL Gillett) by Avon Valley (6
Moon) 15-13; Stanley (1 Leenan) by
Bridgwater BCL (0 Fowles) 18-14; Fours
Read Cumbra (1 Taylor) by Chiping Norton (L Gillett) 24-14.
GREENALLS SPRING WATERLOO
(Blackpool) Second round: T Kelly
(Leeds) by B Ashley (Williaston) 21-16; G
Cookson (Wineford) by 5 Bishop (BirmJungham) 21-18; B Starkey (Mile field) by 0
Sanderson (Sc Annes) 21-13; B Cookson
(Wineford) by 1 Jumson
(Blackpool) 21-17; R Eaton (Holmes
Chapel) by C Tattersal (Out Rawcilfre) 2119; G Warringron (Blackpool) by C Massey
(Amtree) 21-19; M Topping (Adingron) by
R Crawshaw (Wilmislow) 21-17; N Fetchet (Blackpool) bi R Burgess (Adington)
21-15; M Warso (Sale) by B Duxcar (Barrber Bridge) 21-20; G Telford (Sale) by R
Whitfield (York) 21-17; M Telford (Sale) by G
Smith (Leeds) 21-19. F OU : 57.30 unless stored
7.30 unless stored
FA CUP SEMIL-FINAL REPLAY
anal v Manchester Utd (7.45) . . .

CYCLING

French rider Pascal Lino has been banned by his team Big-Mat for two months and will also miss the Tour de France (or taking drugs to relieve bronchlus against the advice of the team doctor. Big-Mat said Lino had counterfeited a prescription to obtain corticoids to cure persistent

FOOTBALL

Wolves are giving a trial to the Australlan international Steve Horvat. currently with Croatian side, Hajduk Split, The 24-year-old central de-fender, with 20 caps, has Impressed Colin Lee, the manager.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND UNDER-21
SOUAD (Friendly International v Sweden Under 21. Birr, Co Offaily, 27
April): O'Cosmor (Bradford Park Avenue).
B Ryan (LCD), Handdons (Sr Park Avenue).
B Ryan (LCD), Handdons (Park Avenue).
B Ryan (LCD), Handdons (Rominads (Brentord), R Ryan (Milhvall), Bostal (Brentord), ReClare (Bamsley), Morgan (St Partick's Athletic), Mabou (Franchis), Formuland, Clare (Grintsby), Fenn (Linctin), Mailley (St Patrick's Athletic), Polan (Brentord), McKeever (Reading), Murphy (Cork City) . Colin Lee, the manager.

Premierabijo Leeds O Liverpool O. Nationavide Conferences Kidderminster & Northwich O. Stevenage S Woking O. Unisonal League Premier Dissison: Emisy 1 Hyde Utd 1. Ryman League Premier Dissison: Postponed: Dagenham & Redundge v Chesham. Unisport United Countries League Premier Division: Wellingborough 1 Spalding 4. Arrect Insurance Northern League First Division: Seaham Red Star O Bedlington Remers 1. North Wicsbarn Trains League First Division: State Star Division: State Star Division: State Star Division: State Star Division: State S Everton 2 Second Division: Newcastle O Sheffield Utd 1. Avon Insurance Combination First Division: Fullam S Millivoll 2: Norwich O West Ham ham S Millwall 2; Norwich O West Ham 3, Wimbledon 3 Watford 2. Postponed:

GOLF
STANDINGS FOR THE 2000 PRESIITENTS CUP (Robert Trent Jones GC,
Gainesville, Virginia): International
Ream: 1 E Eis (SA) 9,07pcs: 2 V Singh
(FII) B.89; 3 N Price (Zim) 8.59; 4 M Ozaki [Jopan] 6.66; 5 5 Eikington (Aus) 5.47;
6 G Norman (Aus) 5.18, 7 S Applety (Aus)
3.59; 8 S Maruyama (Japan) 3.53; 9 C
Franco (Pri) 3.33; 10 C Parry (Aus) 2.98;
11 N Ozaki (Japan) 2.95; 12 F Minoza
(Phil) 2.76; 13 E Romero (Arg) 2.69; 14

FOOTBALL

Middlesbrough v Chetsea (7.45)

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
SECOND PURSION

Manchester City v Luton (7.45)

Middlesbrough v Colenster (7.45)

Stoke v Wycombe (7.45)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division: Bud-ford PA v Ashton.

ford PA v Ashton.

RYMAN LEAGUE Pirst Divisions Croydon v Oxford City, Wealdstone v Membley Third Divisions: It ing v Avelcy
LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwylh v Cymbran. Gefbert League Cup semi-ficals Coemarion Town v Bangor City.

WAYSTONELEAD KENT LEAGUE Pressier Divisions: Canierbury v Herme Bay, Cray v

UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First

S Leaney (Aus) 7, 44: 15 G Turner (NZ) 2,41. United Scates: 1 O Ouval 2,723,500; 2 Davis Love III 1,323,426; 3 J Mapgert 1,320,410; 4 T Wooks 1,315,115; S P Scewart 990,780; 6 S Pate 982,308; 7 J Huston 939,010; 8 J Leonard 801,647; 9 J Sluman 755,215; 10 R Mediate 662,745; 11 5 Gump 659,279, 12 T Herrom 633,93; 13 B Estes 623,739; 14 M O Meara 623,065; 15 A Magee 585,422; (US player points are based on official maney earnings from the start of the 1999 season. The international ream with ederemined by the Official World Rankings and will not include any player eighbe for the European Ryder Cup Learn The top 10 quolity and each caption will have two wild-card picks! US PGA TOUR Leading money wils-

cách capram will have two wild-cord picks!
US PGA TOUR Leading money-winners (US unless stated): 1 0 Duval
52,723,500 [£1,7m], 2 0 Love
51,323,426; 3 J Maygert 51,320,410, 4
T Woods 51,315,115; 5 P Stewart
5990,780, 6 S Pruc 5982,303; 7 J Huscon 5939,010; 8 V Singh (Ph), 5879,835;
9 J Leonard 5801,647; 10 E Els [\$A]
5782,376; 11 S Elkington [Aus)
5767,943; 12 J Siuman 5755,215, 13 J
M Olazabal (5p) 5744,247; 14 N Price
(Zlm) 5690,600, 15 G Heitsredt (Swet
5672,797; 16 R Mediate 5662,745; 17
S Gump 5659,279; 18 T Herron
5633,939; 19 8 Estes 5623,739; 20 M
C'Meara 5623,065.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

TODAY'S

NUMBER

\$4,000

The sum in dollars

(£2,500) which

basketball player

Karl Malone of Utah

Jazz was fined for

throwing a punch

during the game

against Houston on

Sunday night.

ICE HOCKEY NHLE Chago a Washington 2, RV is-landers 4 New Jersey 2, RV Rangers 2 Tam-pa Bay 1; Florida 2 Ottawa 0, Los Angeles 4 Nashville 3, Vancouver 2 Cal-gary 0, Edmonton 5 San José 4 Jori WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Copen-hagen) Pool B: Estonia 2 Great Britain 6

injury, but it was one of the most

disappointing episodes of the 25-

from a tournament in Tokyo

yesterday after losing to Andre

Agassi in Monday's rain-

delayed Salem Open final in

Hong Kong, has expressed a

desire to use the Stella Artois

event as a springboard for a

possible last fling at Wimbledon.

In 1985, Becker won at Queen's

and then became Wimbledon's

youngest men's singles cham-

pion, aged 17, the first of the

German's three titles at the All

Boris Becker, who withdrew

year-old's career.

RUGBY LEAGUE Andy Leathern, the ??-year-old St Helens prop, is joining his honie town club Warrington Wolves on loan Leathern, who played in the Wen-bley win over Bradford Bulls three years ago, has been unable to force his way into the Saints' senior side this season.

RUGBY UNION

club Oswestry have been forbidden from having any involvement in rugby for five years after their role in playing a banned player under an alias. The North Midlands Two side have also been barred from com-

ALANPAINO FINNISH OPEN (Heista-kil Haal: O Elbyrolossy (Eg) of D Palmer | Ausy 12-15 15-11 15-11 15-7 | WOMEN'S CITROEN CLASSIC (Pars-Four officers of the Shropshire dorf, Ger) Final: M Martin (Aus) bi CJack man (Eng) 7-9 9-3 9-5 9-5 ATP BARCELONA OPEN Singles, first round: F Meligen | Broj to M Rosser (Switi 6-3 6-7. J A Morin | CR) bit F Cesta | Studies | 6-7.6 C Soudea | US| bit | Meligram | Swej 6-4 6-3. J C Ferrero | Spi bit I Carbonell | ISpi 6-3 4-6 6-4. A Martini | Spi bit I November | Spi 6-6 6-6 1 A Costa | Spi bit A Gaudetta | Itil 6-3 6-2. A Portus | Spi bit A Gaudetta | Itil 6-3 6-2. A Portus | Spi bit A Gaudetta | Itil 6-3 6-2. A Portus | Spi bit A Gaudetta | Itil 6-4 6-4. I Martini bit of the spiron | Spi bit A Gaudetta | Itil 6-4 6-4. I Martini bit of the spiron | Spi bit A Gaudetta | Itil 6-4 6-4. I Martini bit of the spiron | Spi bit

pelitive rugby for a season after they played Ross Roberts, the former

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Everton v Blackburn [7.0], Nottingham Forest v Sunderland [7.0], Postion v Doorby [7.15] Obtsion Che Baundey v Odham [7.0] Statingham [7.0] Statinghy v Middlesbrough (7.0]; Piyal Vale v Biddon [7.0] Scool Division Bauditori v Shreasbury (2.0), Newcastle v Lincoln [7.0]; Srockport v Huddevstreid [7.0], Whatam v Blackpool (7.0); York v NALE County [7.1] Third Division: Chester links v Halars [7.0]. SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Chippenhart v Odd Down. NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Leek CSOB v Kidsgrove, Ramsbottom v Vauxhali GM, St Helens v Atherion LR. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Hallam v Trackley, ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE CUP Semi-Raal: Jatrow Reol-JEWSON WESSEK LEAGUE First Divi-ston: Downton v Portsmouth RN: Ham-ble ASSC v Christehutch: Money Field v Bemerton Heath Harl.

Division: Brighton (Parel 170), Combining v Brentiara (2 m) Olitingham of Chelsea; Ipswich v Johenham (7 m) Olitingham (8 m) Worford, Swindon v Sauthampion (7 lb) Reading v Bourneauth

RUGBY LEAGUE

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIF: Pothdal: v Barrow (7 10) RUGBY UNION REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: FAF: May-at Navy (7 0) for Gloure-ter RFC1 WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Di-AIR LEAGUE Second Division: Canal Wints & Horse North Michards CHAMPIONSHIP: Greater Farmentum & Words & Herstorthore (7 th part amperium)

BASKETBALL OTHER SPORTS

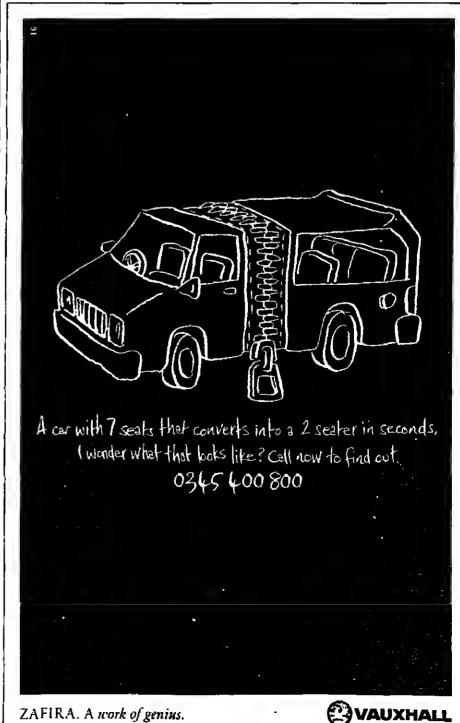
Third Division: Costs y Nutts County I/ In [2 0], Harmepool y Carster Levil v Halvus-thorpe [3:0], Rochdale y Chester (3:0), Wal-sall v Bury [2:0] AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION FIRST

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP Play-off's second leg: Shellight State . Greater London Leupants (7 45) pat Prests Farget, Thames Valley hears a thirty Storm [8 0]

BOWLS: Engish has en a learnaceada in nais (al Metron Monotrary) ICE HOCKEY World Champerstay (Sea P. Great Britain y Poland pat Observe 1984)

Gaudetts (Tr. 6-3 6-2; A Portus (Sp) to fa Methedee (Ukr) 6-4 6-1, M. Zabalera (Arg) br S Grosjean (Fr. 6-7 7-6 6-1; B Ulihrach ita (Rep) to F Rong (Sp) 7-6 6-1; M Puer-ta (Arg) to F A Vennes (Pem) 6-1, 2-5 6-4; F Mantilla (Sp) to G Blonco (Sp) 6-2 6-0 Second Towast Y El Aymacui (Mor) to A Correta (Sp) 7-6 6-2. Second round: Y El Aymoun (Mor) for A Corretin JSp) 7-6-6-3.

JAPAN OPEN (Tokyo) Men's singles. Hist rd: H Kanebo (Japan) by M Knowle; (Bon 6-6-6-4). M Cong (US) by M Hill Java 7-6-6-77-6-1 you Lattum (Netro b). N Estade, (Fr. 6-7-6-4). P Goldstein (US) br H Dreekmann (Gen 7-5-6-4). R Kanbacker (Gen b) S Campbell (US) 6-7-5. D Nestor (Gen b) S Campbell (US) 6-7-6. D Nestor (Gen b) S Campbell (US) 6-7-6-7. D Nestor (Gen b) S Campbell (US) 6-7-6-7. D Nestor (US) 7-6-6-7. S Campbell (US) 6-7-6-7. S Cambell (US) 6-7-6-7. S C



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Jockey charged with race-fixing

GRAHAM BRADLEY, one of the most senior and successful riders in the National Hunt weighing room, was charged yesterday with "conspiracy to cheat", at the end of a two-year police investigation into alleged doping and race-fixing. He will appear hefore Bow Street Magistrates Court

Bradley 38, was charged under Section 1 (i) of the Criminal Law Act. 1977, in connec-

By GREG WOOD

form book, Man Mood led to the 11th fence, but was pulled up approaching the 12th. Drumstick, a 5-4 chance, finished alone.

A police statement said that the jockey had been charged that "on or before 5 November 1996 within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court, he tion with a race at Warwick on did conspire with others to 5 November 1996. Bradley rode win for himself or others from Man Mood, who started a hot bookmakers sums of money favourite at 7-4 on to beat his through wagering on the event only rival, Drumstick, in the of a horse race, by fraud or Oliver Cromwell Handicap other unlawful devices in that Chase, but was pulled up by he agreed that Man Mood, Bradley midway through the ridden by him, would not win race. According to the official the said race."

South Africa on the day of the race, was arrested along with Bradley in early January, but

trainer who prepared Man later, Monty Raphael, his legal Mood but was holidaying in representative, emerged to him such tremendous support."

read a statement. "Mr Brooks has been told he was told yesterday that be further action so far as he is

racing world who have given

Yesterday's charge against Bradley is thought to be unthat the police intend to take no precedented, the first ever hrought against a current.

HOW THE RACEFORM BOOK RECORDED THE 3.25 AT WARWICK

will face no further action. Brooks, who has retired as a trainer last year but still has a close involvement with horseracing via several media

appreciate this has been a trying business for him and his family, he is therefore pleased that the matter has ended and roles, arrived at Charing Cross that he can return to his life and police station at 1.00pm to future career. He is particularly

concerned." he said. "You will licensed jockey by the police in connection with alleged race-

Bradley has ridden winners at all the top tracks, including Cheltenham and Aintree. Last Saturday he rode Suny Bay

Charlie Brooks, the former answer bail, and 25 minutes appreciative of all those in the into 13th place in the Grand stewards, at which they will National at Aintree. In 1998, the same partnership finished second in the National to Earth Summit. At Aintree in 1993, he rode Morley Street, a notably quirky character, to win the meeting." Martell Aintree Hurdle – a performance regarded as the finest piece of horsmanship

> son to victory in the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse. Bradley will also now be required to attend a meeting with the stewards of the Jockey Club in the near future. In a statement issued yesterday, the Club said that "in view of the serious nature of the charge, he will be asked to

seen for many years. In 1985,

consider what, if any, action to be taken under the Rules of Racing. Graham Bradley will have the opportunity to be legally represented at the

The Jockey Club added that they anticipate that meeting taking place by the end of this

Yesterday's charge marks Bradley rode Rhyme 'N' Reathe low point of a riding career which has often swung wildly between succesa and controversy. In the course of almost two decades in the saddle, Bradley has won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on Bregawn as long ago as 1983, and the Champion Hurdle just three years ago, on Collier Bay. In that year's race. Bradley had attend a meeting with the



THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 14 April 1999

Bradley: Charged

been expected to partner Alderhrook, the defending champion, but lost the ride after oversleeping.

Racing, pages 22 and 23

A traditional start to new season - snow

THE FIRST delivery of the new County Championship season was a full toss that left its in- BY MARK BURTON teoded target mopping himself down. Not blood, water. Snowballs were all Durham could unleash with a vengeance yesterday after the heavilyladen storm that scudded across the sky clouds laid down their burden down at the River-

Durham's headquarters at Chester-le-Street looked perfect for the county's next Christmas card after it was buried under a carpet of snow by a steady fall through the morning but useless for its proper purpose. No ruptions was not bad. match against Worcestershire.

The Championship is making an early start this season to make room for the World Cup and the visit of the New Zealand tourists, but April is not the most reliable month. Showers are one thing, but snow, hailstorms and thunder is just not cricket.

"We could bave played bere at any time during the last three weeks," Durham's new groundsman, David Measor, said. "Even after the wet winter the ground was dry and we were ready to start."

CRICKET

Rain put paid to play hetween Lancashire and Sussex at Old Trafford, but the county champions, Leicestershire, were able to get underway against Essex at Chelmsford in spite of the squally showers and bursts of hail and sleet. Just like the weather, this was a contest between the best and the worst, the hosts having finished bottom of the table last summer. All things considered, their return of 91 for 2 through the inter-

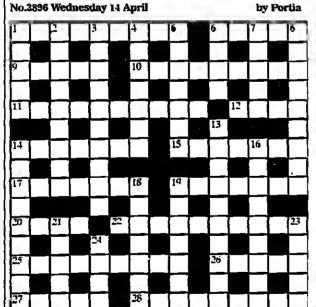
on the first day of their opening Not as good, though, as Surrey's. Every kind of weather imaginable, with the exception of fog, took turns to sweep across The Oval where Gloucestershire put the bome side in, no doubt assuming that the inevitable interruptions would disrupt the batsmen's rhythm. But every time the sun returned, the left-handers Mark Butcher and Ian Ward looked as if they were batting on a shirt-front at the beight of summer, piling up an unbroken

124 opening partnership.



Reports, scoreboard, page 21 Snowballs not bails are David Boon's concern at Durham's Chester-le-Street headquarters on the first day of their opening County Championship match vesterday

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS Key proposal's out of order causing uproar (9) Protection for soldier, in the main, when

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Often seeming somewhat strained (5) 10 Hesitate to get out, though sick at heart (9)
11 The dogs ran off, being wilful (10)

retreating (5)

12 Weak condition besets a homeless person (4) 14 South African involved in rough campaign (7) 15 Storm follows public

scandal (7) 17 Height of excellence? 19 Frnatical struggle at

20 In this way is repeatedly

the end? (3-4)

Colour Print, St Albans Road, Wattorn

Corner field? (5) Insignificant work of

keep going (9)

indifferent (2-2)

wither (5-5)

ppeal (9)

deeper (5)

22 Fruit tree woman left to

25 Intensity of a child-like

27 By the sound of it, for-

28 Training run's hard but

mer period's run out (5)

Obscure words have to be translated - nothing in that (10) Opposite method of writing? (4) Refusal by prison to

prosecute? It's

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impossible (2.3,2) Soothe fears after losing a partner (4) Said to gather in African

republic (5)
City where English fel-lows get in protection (9)
Simplify current policy 26 He's the first heading off 8 14 Capital country? (4,5) Immediately visible, a label on a weapon (2,1,6)

18 Model's elated by progress (5,2) 19 She fits one for the part Get out and find a way

to meet upper-class representative (5) Cheek's a sensitive spot

24 Charge a pound for experience (4)

Owen faces scan for tendon damage

MICHAEL OWEN is still waiting to discover whether his season is over after suffering a hamstring injury at Leeds on Mon-

day night. The Liverpool striker has undergone a bospital scan to establish if there is tendon damage amid fears he could be ruled out for the rest of the season, missing England's friendly against Hungary in Budapest on 28 April.

Owen pulled up as he raced on to Steve McManaman's through-ball at Elland Road and fell to the floor clutching the back of his right leg.

The Liverpool manager, Gerard Houllier, is concerned that it is a case of history repeating itself, as Owen suffered the same injury at Derby a month ago.

"We took him off as a premaybe doesn't look as bad as we first thought, although it could be damage on the tendon."

Owen's injury is a further blow to Liverpool's Uefa Cup hopes after Robbie Fowler was given a six-game ban by the Football Association for an incident involving the Chelsea defender Graeme Le Saux and his goal celebration in the Merseyside derby, when he

pretended to snort cocaine. "To lose Michael and Robbie at the same time does give us a real problem," admitted Houllier, who will look to the German international Karlheinz Riedle to step in to the breach for the season's run-in.

Riedle has made only 13 starts this season but Houllier

BY PAUL DOWLING

will need his experience towards the end of the season as Liverpool continue to chase a European place.

Fowler has still not appealed against his six-game suspension and £32,000 fine. Indeed, the FA has not yet received any notification from Fowler or his representatives, but the Liverpool striker still has until 23 April to lodge an appeal.

Despite Fowler's disciplinary hrushes with the FA. Kevin Keegan, the England coach, will not be under pressure to drop him from the England squad for the friendly with Hungary.

Because of fitness doubts hanging over Owen and Chris Sutton, who has effectively been caution." said Houllier. "It ruled out for the rest of the season with a groin problem, Fowler has a chance of not only making the squad but pos-

sibly even the game itself. The double injury blow has drastically reduced Keegan's striking options for the friendly in Hungary. He may well favour giving a second chance to Alan Shearer and Andy Cole, who played against Poland last month, to develop their strike partnership ahead of the Euro 2000 qualifiers against Sweden and Bulgaria in June. But Cole's recent form has been suffering, and Keegan may prefer to leave some first-choice players from Manchester United, Arsenal or Chelsea out of his

squad, given their extensive

cluh commitments.

Although some FA councillors may feel that Fowler's recent indiscipline should count against him, there will be no official request made to Keegan to leave the striker out, even if his ban may leave him short of match practice for

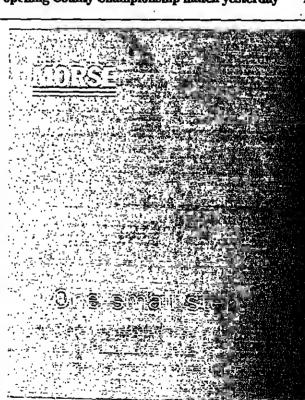
the Euro qualifiers in June. In the past, players undergoing lengthy domestic suspensions automatically been ruled out of international games.

However, FA spokesman Steve Double confirmed: "Domestic suspensions mean just that. Players remain available for any possible international call-ups."

Fowler, who has won eight international caps, is therefore almost certain to be included in the squad that will be named by Keegan next Thursday - with yesterday's confirmation of the date being another indication that the match is still likely to

go ahead. However, with Owen and Sutton missing, Keegan will be looking for another two strikers to increase his options up front. Tottenham's Chris Armstrong was the player called up as a late replacement for the Poland game, with his clubmate Les Ferdinand suffering from a slight injury problem.

Emile Heskey, though should also feature if judged fit after his recent back problems while Paul Merson returned to first-team action for Aston Villa with a sparkling substitute's display against Southampton last



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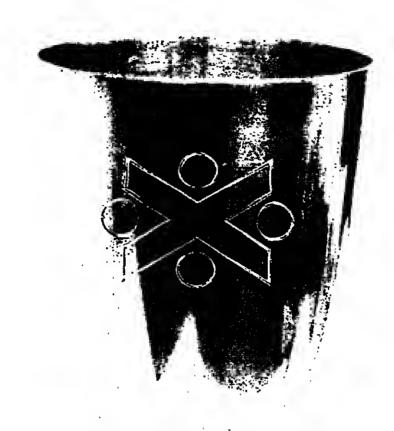
*THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 14 April 1999

BUSINESS REVIEW

POISONED CHALICE

THE TV EVANGELIST, THE BANK OF SCOTLAND AND AN UNHOLY ROW





Inside: How BT made the right connections, page 5 The smart money on the banker's banker, page 6 **Plus:** Diane Coyle, Derek Pain and The Trader

INCLUDES FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

You can't please all of the people all of the time.

THE INDEPENDENT

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conquest of inflation will dominate been the furore over the superstrategic thinking in the early years of the next millennium.

Probably the most important consequence of low inflation is that relative price movements become very apparent – and those who put up prices are quickly accused of profiteering. And so, as macroeconomic counter-inflation policy moves out of the political limelight. we see micro-economic policy moving to centre stage.

In the 1970s and 1980s the standard medicine for too much inflatioo was to print less money. Now, the fashionable cure is increased competition.

It is a cure that goes well with the New Labour policy agenda. New Labour wants to be businessfriendly. Business is all about making a profit. Yet profit was anathema to Old Labour. So a new synthesis is emerging, which says that a normal return on capital is respectable. indeed necessary, but that exces-

sive profits are obsceoe. High profits are a sign of too high

The big food retailers have given us efficient modern shopping machines that are always crowded with people who profess to dislike them. The press ran several "rip off Britain" stories last summer when the strong pound pushed UK shop prices above their Continental counterparts.

But who is to blame for high prices? Before macro-economic policy was taken out of the political arena, the press might have focused on the exchange rate. Instead, it ran a profit story. So it was not long before the Government launched an Office of Fair Trading (OFT) enquiry. which concluded that the food retailers warranted investigation by

the Competitioo Commission. When the OFT investigates an industry it is because a small number of suppliers have a stranglehold on the market. The aim is to define a market, show that a few players have a very large share, and nail them for

abusing a dominant positioo. But it is difficult to make this kind prices, and the cure for both is more

THE BUSINESS implications of the competition. An example of this has of charge stick in the case of food retailing: supermarkets were invented to lure the ooce-a-week car-bound shopper, who is willing to drive some distance to save a few pounds on the weekly sbop. The market is clearly pretty competitive.

But some stores do make a lot of mooey. So the OFT looked directly at profits, aiming to show that the supermarkets were making an excessive return on capital.

What does excessive mean? The issue is complex - indeed the regulation of the privatised utilities has spawned a whole new literature oo the subject. Successful innovation in any

sphere usually geoerates big profits. Innovators such as Microsoft and the Internel eotrepreceurs are modern variations oo an old theme: early settlers take a big risk. but can reap the biggest rewards. But for every success story there

returns of the successful are not the In some spheres, the importance of innovatioo and the im-

are many failures. The

BILL ROBINSON

> Profits that appear at first glance excessive may nevertheless be socially acceptable.

portance of rewarding the sucearn huge returns on their capital. if they find a way to produce a drug for a few pence and then sell it for several pounds. Patent laws will protect the company from imitators.

These laws provide a proper reward for the huge sums spent by innovators on research and development. If they were repealed the nation's drugs bill would plummet - but there would be no new drugs. So we allow the pharmaceutical industry to be the most profitable industry in the world.

Pharmaceutical companies typically plough a large proportion of their profits back into research. The rates of return earned by the pharmaceutical industry - which are way in excess of the oormal return on equity capital - provide the incentive (and in some cases the funds) for further innovation.

The pharmaceutical example illustrates the point that profits that appear at first glance excessive may nevertheless be socially ac-

cessful, are explicitly recognised. both a reward for running risk and For instance, drug companies can an incentive to innovation. They may also supply the funding for further innovation.

We may be able to live with "excessive" profits for drugs companies, hut what about property speculators? Although it may be harder to swallow the same arguments apply.

A successful development - the shopping mail at Brent Cross or the huge Broadgate complex in the City, for example - can command very high rents, which suggests that someone is earning a very high return on capital. But nobody (yet) is suggesting that the developers be investigated by the OFT, and rightly so.

The financiers took a very large risk, and the results of their enterprise are shops and offices for which people willingly pay high rents. If those rewards for success were disallowed, there would be no further innovation.

Food retailers need similar incentives. Although they have been pretty innovative over the past Bill Robinson is a director of the decade or two, and transformed the

ceptable. Such profits may provide food shopping experience, the grocery retail revolution is far from over Food distribution has caught up with the invention of the motor. car. It has not yet come to terms with the Internet, which will one day transform shopping from home. The retailers still need the

incentive to innovate. Does this mean that we should stop worrying about the profitability of supermarkets? Not quite, because there is one important feature of the food retailing industry that certainly is stifling compe-

tition: planning restrictions. Successive governments have decreed that the success of out-oftown retailing is threatening town centres, and have imposed all kinds of restrictions on developments.

So if there is a problem about the ofitability of these stores, it is largely of the Government's making. All of which makes it rather difficult to predict where an investigation of the profitability of supermarkets will lead.

consultancy London Economics

DATELINE: MILAN

Fall of Italy's high priest of banking

ON THE surface oothing has changed. Each weekday morning Enrico Cuccia, the 91-yearold high priest of Italian finance, leaves his Milan apartment shortly after eight. His hunched figure in navy wool coat with matching bat and cashmere scarf moves purfront of La Scala opera bouse to his office at No 10 via Filodrammatici, the headquarters of Italy's only real merchant bank, Mediobanca.

who has pulled the strings of Italian finance for half a century, is no longer the puppet master, his marionettes have begun to move by themselves and he risks finding himself sidelined.

Sunday is normally a sacred day of rest for Milan's driven financial community. But by the evening of 21 March, two friendly takeover hids by Italian banks totalling \$26bn bad changed Italian credit for ever.

Unicredito Italiano, the country's higgest bank in market capitalisation, launched a \$16.4 play for its rival Banca Commerciale Italiana. to create Eurobanca", to become Italy's largest financial institution.

Hours Liter that record was broken when Turin-based San Paolo-IMI, Italy's biggest bank in terms of assets, had offered \$9.7bo dollars for Banca di Roma. Both share-swap deals depend on shareholder acceptance and approval by the stock market watchdog. Never had two such massive deals been struck without the blessing of Enrico Cuccia. Mediobanca had been gambling on a merger between Banca Commerciale Italiana and Banca di Roma. As the deals were fi-

BY FRANCES KENNEDY

nalised, Mediobanca executives were barricaded in their 16th-century palazzo headquarters with the press outside. Cuccia had forgone his usual Sunday afternoon tea at the Caffe Ambroeus in a desperate posefully across the piazza in attempt to orchestrate a counter-attack.

The deals mean a transfer of power that would seriously undermine the independence of the merchant bank and leave it But the dramatic events of exposed to predators. Sixteen of the capital of Mediobanca would be in the hands of Unicredit-Comit and 8 per cent with San Paolo-Banca di Roma.

The irony was that Enrico Cuccia, who countless times bailed out the big names of Italian industry, from Agnelli to Ferruzzi to Pirelli, oow has to try to save himself.

The enigmatic Sicilian banker is arguably the most influential economic figure in postwar Italy. Mediobanca was born 0010 April 1946, on the initiative of the liberal banker Raffaelle Mattioli, Cuccia, already identified as a financial whizz, was put in charge.

Its aim was to serve the needs of industry after the Second World War but Cuccia sooo widened that hrief, turning it into Italy's first merchant bank during exceptionally rapid growth in time for Italy's "economic miracle" of the Sixties.

Cuccia forged alliances with the big family dynasties of Italian capitalism. The Agnellis of Fiat, the Pirelli tyremakers, the Ferruzzi agrochemicals empire, the DeBenedetti family at Olivetti were all part of what became known as the solotto buono - the exclusive

try. Cuccia protected them from foreign predators and from the state. He also set up a complex web of cross-shareholdings that linked the various planets in the Mediobanca galaxy.

These inter-related companies would support one another in times of difficulty and avold having to resort to share issues or bank loans.

Giuseppe Turani, editor of Uomini e Business magazine, says: "Cuccia ensured the various figures on the economic didn't scrap among themselves. He decreed when someone should make an exit. certainly not competitors or the free market.

"Secondly, when a group was in deep crisis, everything came to a halt and Cuccia moved in. He had a good look at the books, called in the banks (often ordering them to provide credit or underwrite highly risky recapitalisations) and at times be sorted out new man-

agers."

Crucial to Cuccia's overall strategy were the three then state-controlled banks, the Banca Commerciale Italiano, Credito Italiano and Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, They held stakes in Mediobanca and could be called on to provide cash when required. The relationship was perverse; instead of shareholder banks controlling Mediobanca, Cuccia issued the orders.

The success of Mediobanca was due to Cuccia's extraordinary financial acumen but also his personality. He has never given an interview and attends public functions reluctantly. Photos of Cuccia, with his heavily lidded eyes, high forehead, thick lips and hunched shoul-

drawing room of Italian indus- ders are rare. There is an underground tunnel that links Mediobanca to the oext door palazzo, allowing staff and clients to come and go without being noticed.

Among the few journalists to have met Cuccia is Piero Ottone, a former editor of Corriere della Sera.

He said: "[He is] a man of exemplary integrity and rigorous principles in his personal life, who received a modest salary and conducted a modest lifestyle, although he backed some dubious characters. When told he'd supported someone that he himself defined a thief, he would point to the chairs on which his visitors sit, saying, 'If you only knew how many rotters have sat

there'." Ottone says much of the enigma of Cuccia can be explained by his deeply ingrained Sicilian culture. "That demands absolute loyalty in exchange for loyalty. To the meo he supported be would forgive almost

anything, hut not hetrayal." Critics say Cuccia hampered competition, prevented Italian companies from "growing up", stopped the banking sector from developing and sold minor shareholders sbort. Romano Prodi, the recently nominated President of the European Commission, once described the power of Mediobanca as "a threat to economic democracy in Italy".

For some commentators the advent of European Monetary Union sounded the death knell of the Cuccia-Mediobanca-Italian capitalism system. Cuccia's flaw. they argue, was pride, thinking be could resist change rather than adapt to it. They also point to the dete-

Enrico Cuccia, puppet-master of post-war Italian banking, has been outmanoeuvred in two recent deals Grazia Neri rioration of two specially close

relationships; with Italy's most

powerful family, the Agnellis.

and with Lazard Frères. For years Cuccia had a close rapport with the mythical Andre Mayer, Lazard's founder. The two banks share control of Assicurazioni Generali, one of Europe's biggest insurance firms, but the relationship has turned frosty. When one of Mediobanca's most promising middle managers Gerardo Braggiotti, was sacked in December 1997, he became senior partner in Lazard. Proof that loyalties no longer lie with Cuccia showed when Fiat belped to organise the San Paolo-Banca di Roma deal - it holds sbares in both - and Lazard brokered

the Unicredito deal Many point the finger at Mediohanca's managing di-rector, 61-year-old Vincenzo

Maranghi, Cuccia's dauphin. They say be lacks vision, makes strategic errors and is respoosible for a run of failures that marked the decline in Mediobanca's power. Apart from soubbing Umberto Agnelli. brother of patriarch Giovanni, and irritating Deutsche Bank, Maranghi has also made enemies in much of the banking

establishment. "Cuccia is arrogant but be is a genius," said Fabio Tamburrini, author of A Sicilian in Milan, a biography of Cuccia. "Maranghi has always displayed incredible arrogance while making mistake after mistake."

More signs that Mediobanca was waning came with the failure of the 1996 Supergemina project, a fusion that would have saved the Ferruzzi group. another family holding. The revelation of massive losses in Gemina and the intervention of a magistrature thwarted that.

Last year, Piero Marzotto opposed the marriage, matched by Cuccia, of his textile group with another conglomerate, HDP And a two-year campaign to wed Banca Commerciale and Banca di Roma failed acrimoniously the week before the Unicredito and San Paolo deals. If both mergers proceed, there are question marks over the future of Cuccia and the bank be

Should be step aside, there are no obvious successors. Conflict with Maranghi has seen an exodus of top management since 1996.

Whoever is in charge, Mediobanca will change. It may try to carve a strictly merchant banking role, divesting itself of its stakes in Italian companies. If it is the subject of a takeover bid, it could divest itself of only minor holdings, remaining essectially as it is, but fused with the raider.

The towns

"It's not a large or structured" organisation," says Fabio Tamburrini. "There are only 300 em-" ployees. It's a boutique so it will!" be difficult for them to compete solely in that sector."

There are jewels in the Mediobanca portfolio. It holds strategic share packets in appetising companies such as Generali and SAI (insurance) Pirelli (tyres) Compart(chemicals) HDP (media and textiles) Falck and Fondiaria (steel). The presence of Cuccia has always been a protection for these companies against marauders. In future their only defence will be staying competitive and seeking strategic lliances themselves.

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL PRESS



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BUSINESS WEEK Can US chief executives justify pay packages that average \$10m?

Many CEOs appear to be earning their keep. Thanks to options, the link between pay and performance these top execs. And shareholders are oot complaining either.

But times are exceptionally good for executives to strut their stuff. It's too easy to confuse genius with a bull market. What to do? To ensure that only the best performers reap their just rewards, we support Alan Greenspan in advocating indexed options. Give CEOs options that bave no value unless the stock actually does better than a market or. a peer group index. High pay is OK only if supported by performance.

Editorial

FINANCIAL NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS Placing new restraints on derivatives would be unnecessary and unwise

OUTRAGEOUS? WELL, yes and no. THE WORLD Bank's snipe at the \$50 trillion derivatives industry is somewhat uncharacteristic. Derivatives instruments help tease apart the has never been tighter. Enormous | strands of risk entwining the global value had been created by many of | economy. They offer investors untold opportunities to assess the merits of government policy. In doing so they attract capital to well-managed economies and facilitate flows out of those that are unsound. This is evident not just in emerging markets

> but in G10 countries such as Italy. To levy an ill-conceived regulatory framework on emerging market derivatives oow would be to punish those countries making painful, but rewarding strides towards recovery, and those which have turned their back on the free-market principle. – Editorial



THE WASHINGTON POST

On how Brazil has come back

from the brink of recession

IN JANUARY, Brazil conducted a crisis devaluation of the currency. It was a cruel blow to a lower class already absorbing severe punishment, and also to a middle class scarcely more securely perched on the lower rungs of a society notorious for its income disparities. Yet it did not produce the widely-feared Brazilian meltdown. Brazilians still expect

negative growth this year. Nonetheless, developments in Brazil can be regarded as an achievement. They do more than win President Fernando Henrique Cardoso the further respect of the international financial set. They confront the twice-elected former professor with the opportunity to tackle more demanding reform.



FINANCIAL TIMES On Europe after the euro's first one hundred days

WITH INFLATION subdued, the central question becomes an assessment of the scale of the trouble facing the real economy. It is serious. Eurozone growth has collapsed. Domestic demand is sickly and husiness confidence and investment are terribly weak. Monetary easing alone will not cure Europe's economic ills. For too long, politicians have avoided the difficult liberalisation oeeded to unleash enterprise

and belp unemployment fall. Since the launch of the euro, too many politicians have been secondguessing the ECB. After the ECB's first rate cut, it is time for governments to play their part. If monetary union brings economic reform, that really will be a reason to drink a toast. Editorial



THE ECONOMIST Why America is fighting a just trade war over bananas

BUT SURELY, a liberal might plead, the EU should protect poor Caribbean banana growers against heartless American multinationals? Is not bending world trade rules a small price to pay for helping the poor? No, it is a large price to pay, and for not very much help. Trade restrictions are not a good way to belp poor countries; trade rules are too important to global prosperity. Moreover, the ba-

nana regime is a rich man's racket. It costs European consumers about \$2bn (£1.24bn) a year. Of that around \$1bn (£0.62bn) goes to the distributors. Banana growers in the poor countries get only \$150m (£93m) a year. If the EU wants to help, it should throw open its banana market and increase direct aid to the Caribbean.

- Editorial



founded.

FORTUNE On what China stands to gain from the World Trade Organisation

> WHAT WORRIES China is the short term: the impact on state industries. With a stability-obsessed leadership alarmed by rising unemploymeet, the list of potential WTO casualties is long. China may call itself a "developing" country, but a more accurate label is "semi-reformed". And the further Peking inches towards market reform, the

tougher become the the choices. From this perspective. China's drawn out WTO entry bid simply highlights a more fundamental challenge for the Chinese leadership: bow to get the country from an opaque, state-dominated economy to rules-based free-market system without eroding the pillars of one-

party power. - Editorial Richard Tomlinson



... 45

BARRON'S On the impact of overstated earnings on Wall Street

MIND-BLOWING valuations and speculative frenzy by no means exhaust the list of things that frouble us about the level of the market, Purported earnings are a sore subject as well. We've long had a gripe about" taking huge anticipatory charges in a bad year, so as to puff up earnings the next. Equally irksome is hyping earnings by using options instead of

cash to pay employees. Andrew Smithers has bravely sought to determine the impact of the use of options on corporate profits. If corporations had accounted fully for the costs of options, published profits would have been reduced by a whopping 56 per cent in 1997 and 50 per cent in 1998. It puts the market in a slightly different light, doesn't it? – Editorial

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– Editorial

THE INDEPENDENT

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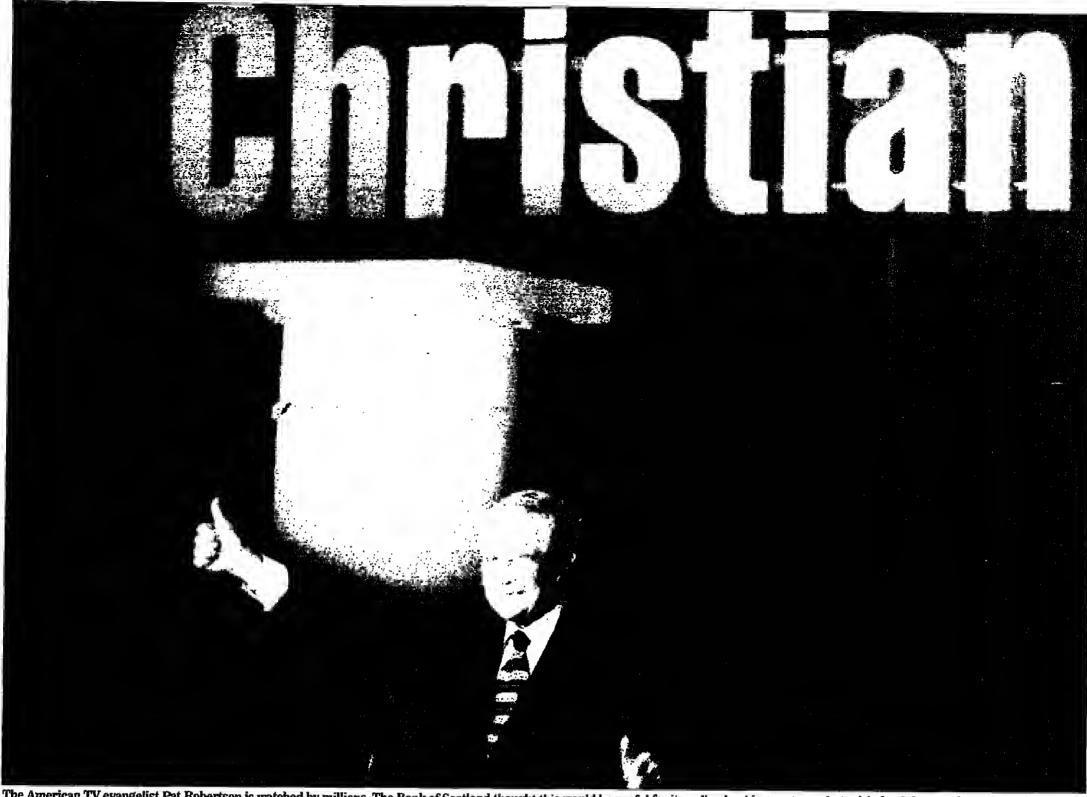
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The American TV evangelist Pat Robertson is watched by millions. The Bank of Scotland thought this would be useful for its online banking venture - but misjudged the moral mood Roberto Borea

One hell of a deal

FOR PAT ROBERTSON, Bank of Scotland seemed like the perfect partner. One of Britain's most venerable and sober financial institutions, it is the oldest existing UK clearing bank, having been first established in 1695, and has a reputation for the kind of Scottisb Calvinist solidity which places reputation before risk and regards gambling with its £60bn of assets as a moral sin rather than a corporate opportunity.

Its chairman goes by the title of Governor, a position which, in theory if not in practice, is equal to that of the Governor of the Bank of England, and it prints its own bank notes. For Mr Robertson's particular brand of religious conservatism, it appeared the ideal partner.

There was also a sentimental reason for Fir Robertson to forge links. The year that rank of Scotland was founded, 1695, was also the date when Mr Robertson's ancestor, the Rev James Robertson, set sail from Scotland for the New World. It was uncanny, almost as if this venture had been preordained.

For Bank of Scotland, Mr Robertson also seemed to offer unparalleled opportunities. He is one of America's most accomplished TV evangelists, as well as a highly successful businessman in his own right. The idea of setting up a low-cost online bank in the US with Mr Robertson responsible for the promotion, seemed just too good to re-

Going online is regarded as very much the way forward for retail banking and it offers new entrants such as Bank of Scotland the opportunity to establish a market position at virtually no cost. The millions of od-fearing Americans who regularly tune to watch Mr Robertson's shows offered a captive, and potentially very lucrative mar-

ket. It seemed like a deal made in heaven. Except that this is not how it turned out. Bank of Scotland's association with Mr Robertson has turned into a public relations disaster of monumental proportions. Hundreds of students, union leaders, politicians and church activists have declared a boycott of Bank of Scotland in protest, and the link-up has been almost universally condemned in the Scottish

Some protesters have handcuffed themselves to the railings of the bank's Edinburgh headquarters. Mr Robertson, they say is a bigot, whose anti-gay, anti-feminist and often extreme right-wing views should have set warning lights flashing among the staid grey suits at Bank of Scotland.

Both the bank and Mr Robertson are determined to ride the storm. Mr Robertson, ative Christians but loathed by the politiis claimed, has in the past been able to vert hurricanes with the power of prayer, and if he can do that, surely he should be able weather this gale.

But, with the bank's share price beginning to suffer, and the possibility that the current comparatively limited protest

Action of the company could grow into something more damaging, doubts are beginning to creep in. Certainly the normally thick-skinned Mr Robertson has been shocked to his core by canes and perhaps a meteor would strike and sold to

BY ANDREW MARSHALL AND ANDREW COLLIER

t looked like a marriage made in heaven. The bank with the impeccable Calvinist credentials and the ___pastor with an interest in online banking. But the American TV evangelist the Rev Pat Robertson moved in ways that were too mysterious for the conservative



parishioners of Edinburgh, and the Bank of Scotland found itself embroiled in an unholy public relations disaster of near biblical proportions

the degree of tostility. "I'm just appalled by the distortion", be has been quoted as saying, "They [the British media] make the American press look like choir boys. I'm proud of my Scottish heritage turt that pride has been somewhat diminished over recent

So who is Mr Robertson, and why do so many Scots find him so objectionable? These are just some of Mr Robertson's views: he thinks gays are Satanists, that Presbyterians are the "spirit of the Anti-Christ", and that Hindus and Muslims are inferior to Christians.

Pat Robertson is a businessman, a politician and a religious leader, and about as controversial as you can get in each sphere. His varied activities over the past decade have prompted many to ask which pursuit comes first for him, and how far his different activities are kept separate.

Mr Robertson is a hugely wealthy man who lives on a mountain in Virginia. The Christian Coalition, the religious and political group which he founded, has 1.8 million members, 1,900 chapters and brings in tens of millions of dollars in donations every year. If what Bank of Scotland is looking for is someone with expertise in communication, modern campaigning techniques and a grasp of technology. then Mr Robertson certainly has his at-

But that is balanced by his public image. Mr Robertson is a controversial figure in the US, hugely popular amongst conservcal centre and left. He has put himself in the spotlight not just for his statements about gays and other religions, but by a series of legal actions that have, in effect, told him to render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's - or, in other words, to pay his

His views on gays have embarrassed even his followers on occasions. For instance, he forecast that tornadoes, hurri- off in 1990.

Disney World in Orlando because it hosts gay events. "Many of those people involved with Adolf Hitler were Satanists, many of them were homosexuals," the has said.

"The two things seem to go together."

He is not that friendly towards other Christian denominations, let alone other religions. "You say you're supposed to be nice to the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians and the Methodists

and this, that, and the other thing," be said on January 14, 1991. "Nonsense. I don't have to be nice to the spirit of the Anti-Christ."

Mr Robertson has also insulted Hindus and Muslims. "When I said during my presidential bid that I would only bring Christians and Jews into the government, I hit a firestorm. What do you mean?' the media challenged me. 'You're not going to bring atheists into the government? How dare you maintain that those who believe in the Judeo-Christian values are better qualified to govern America than Hindus and Muslims?" My simple answer is, 'Yes, they are.'

Mr Robertson started his business career by buying a small television channel in Virginia. He walked in one day in 1960 and said that "God has sent me here to buy your television station". This he turned into the Christian Broadcasting Network, a tax-exempt organisation and a vast enterprise that has expanded into a global busiuess empire,

The Family Channel was spun

Rupert Murdoch and other partners in 1997 for \$1.8bn (£1.1bo). Mr Robertson's Christian Coalition was eventually built into the largest and most important vehicle for the Christian right. In 1988 he went so far as to run for the White House, successfully beating George Bush in several Republi-

can primary races. Not all of his trusinesses have been successful. Standard News, a radio service, and Zap-News, a daily fax service, were sold after tioth failed to meet expectations. Another busi-

> formed to sell "Sea of Galilee" mud masks and "American Whey." but it was not a success. Questions have been raised about the separation of his business, religious and charitable enterprises.

ness. Kalo Vita was

For instance. Mr Robertson went into business in Zaire with Africa Development Company, a diamond venture. That became an embarrassment after pilots who were supposed to be flying relief flights into the country for Mr Robertson's Operation Blessing said that they had actually been supplying the diamond venture. The issue is still being investigated in Virginia. There were also questions asked about Mr Robertson's links with former Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, who was banned

> The Federal Election Commission launched a case against the Christian Coalition alleging illegal partisan electioneering.

a charity. The investigation turned up some interesting tapes of Mr Robertson sounding less like a preacher than an oldfashioned party political boss. "Look, we put you in power in 1994," he said of the Republican-dominated Congress, "and we want you to deliver."

The Internal Revenue Service, after a lengthy probe of the CBN, retroactively revoked its tax-free status for two years in the 1980s, and made it pay an undisclosed fine for contributing to Mr Robertson's presidential campaign.

Is this really the sort of man Bank of Scotland ought to be associating itself with? In banking terms, the link-up seems to make sound financial sense. Mr Robertson has 55 million people regularly tuning in to watch his robust and populist diatribes. Drive those viewers towards a new bank bearing the Robertson imprint, and it could amount to an awful lot of dollars going on deposit.

This is not though, to be any old bank: the idea is to launch an Internet-based operation. Competition in this sector is tough in the US - the new kid on the block would be up against established players such as Telebanc Financial Corporation and Atlanta-based NetBiank - but, with online banking growing by more than 100 per cent a year, the potential rewards are massive.

In recent years, Bank of Scotland, under the stewardship of its low key but nevertheless dynamic and visionary chief executive. Peter Burt. has been both successful and innovative. Its direct banking tie-up with Sainsburys, for instance, brought in 700.000 customers and more than £1.5m in a year.

from the US, overthrown and died in The problem with the proposed venture was not its financial appeal: it was the reputation of Mr Robertson bimself. Leading figures at the bank's headquarters were aware of the broad thrust of Mr Robertson's views when they signed up. Crucially, which would be a they still chose to go ahead with the deal, breach of its status as presumably believing that opposition to his

views would not survive the journey across the Atlantic, or - perhaps more likely - that the business benefits of the tie-up would far outweigh any PR problems. It did not take long for their judgement to be proved lacking. News of the proposed venture caused indignation right across Scotland. Gay campaigners, outraged by Mr Robertson's anti-homosexual stance, view the deal with the same contempt that antiapartheid campaigners used to voice about the dealings of Barclays in South Africa, and have called for the pink pound to be

shifted elsewhere. Edinburgh University Students' Association, with a turnover of £7m, said it was considering its position, while the Londonbased property management agent, Duncan Lustig-Prean, said he would be writing to legal firms advising them that his company would not assign certificates on consent to transfer where a Bank of Scotland mortgage was involved.

The worst blow of all for the bank, however, was the threat that the ecumenical body Action for Churches Together in Scotland (Acts), which represents the main Christian denominations who bave 1.5 million adherents, could withdraw its account from the bank. The Episcopalalian Bishop of Edinburgh, the Most Rev Richard Holloway, said Mr Robertson's beliefs were against everything the church-

As the media raged, the bank's share price slipped by 10 per cent and analysts such as Capel Cure Sharp in the US warned that the move was causing their clients a good deal of concern.

As the row continued, the bank turned to a professional public relations company, Media House of Glasgow, to try and get its message across. This appointment, however, turned out to be almost as big a mistake as its original deal with Mr Robertson. Media House is run by Jack Irvine, a dyedin-the-wool tabloid journalist who is a former Scottish editor of The Sun and has a reputation for writing hard-hitting columns for the Scottish edition of The Mirror. Irvine was an odd choice of mouthpiece, and it did not take long for new problems to develop. When polibcians of all colours on Edinburgh City Council united in voting to write to the bank, deploring its actions, he responded by retorting that they "have a worldwide reputation for putting their foot in their mouth, and this is in keeping with that tradition ... in the run-up to the Scottisb elections we are seeing somewhat bysterical behaviour, and this is an examule of it." Up at the bank's headquarters on The Mound you could almost hear heads

banging on tables. For all the high farce of the situation. however, nothing has changed. The bank is still intent on pushing the deal through. Mr Robertson is shaken, but remains unrepentant. Protesters, for their part, are now aiming to raise an international petition via the Internet. At this stage, few are prepared to predict who will eventually gain the upper hand - commerce or ethics.

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ENTERPRISE ISSUES

All that clusters could be gold – for Britain plc

embodied, abstract things is all too easy. That means policy discussions on how to boost productivity and competitiveness tend to focus on rather abstract methods upskilling, benchmarking and the like. Management theorists get down to more nitty gritty matters, but even they tend to focus on bigpicture corporate strategies and human resource policies.

Abstraction is essential, of course, hut sometimes we need to remember that business involves actual people. More than that, companies exist in actual places, hut it is rare to hear about how place can be made to contribute to the productivity of UK plc.

The competitiveness White Paper published late last year actually had a stab at it, as it focused on the idea of clusters of industri-

One of the most noteworthy things about economic activity is that it tends to be heavily concentrated geographically, with specific

gether - cutlery in Sheffield and cotton in Manchester are now software in Cambridge and call centres in Glasgow.

This poses two sorts of policy question. For national governments, the issue is encouraging the development of as many clusters of as many sorts as possible. For local government, it is how to develop as a cluster, probably in competition with other centres. The existing framework for setting policy is not well geared towards addressing these questions at either level of government.

Take the vexed matter of interest rates. Every time the Bank of England has cut rates - six times in seven months - representatives of manufacturing industry have condemned it for not going far

Setting interest rates to suit the economy rather than just the struggling manufacturing sector is equivalent, in Britain, to setting rates too low for the South-east and

types of husiness often close to- too high for the North - and too high for the urban centres of traditional industry. There is no way around this, but there are ways in which policies can adjust to take account of geography.

For instance, there is a crying need for national co-ordination of the competing subsidies different areas offer potential inward investors. A national body might well have to take unpopular decisions to designate preferred locations for certain types of investor.

The national government also has an important role in regulatory and competition policies, and in the hig-picture planning on transport infrastructure. Many businesses locate in places it is easy to get out of, so decisions about the motorway, rail and air network have a big impact on certain towns at the expense of others.

The policy agenda hecomes more difficult at local level. Most local authorities keep policies in separate compartments: economic development, planning, transport,



DIANE COYLE

There's a crying need for national co-ordination of all subsidies for different areas

look at the hig picture can rarely translate broad conclusions into an across-the-board strategy.

The main conclusion of a recent series of papers on cities is that urhan policies need this broad aweep. The summary paper* proposes a series of "policy handshakes" as a device for joining up local policies that have traditionally remained separate.

One obvious example - when you think about it - is that housing and education policy ought to he related because people's decisions about where to live are conditioned by where they want to send their children to school.

Therefore improving a school can regenerate an estate. This matters for business hecause potential employees will not move to work for a company if they cannot live their lives as they want - people, as well as companies, exist in specific places. Once you start

housing, education and so on. making the links it is hard to stop. Even those with effective enter- Thus education policy affects prise agencies whose job it is to transport planning too, because if people decide they have to send their children to independent schools it will lead to an increase in car traffic as harassed parents do the motorised school run rather than walking their children to the

local school. A further implication of this train of argument is that policies can no longer be left in the hands of the professions that have traditionally monopolised them.

As the paper puts it, local gov-ernment has been run - not very effectively - as a form of command and control economy. The authors write: "In many cities the existing political structures and city leadership find it difficult to respond to the speed and nature of change in modern economies."

Professional local government and planning officials have tended to set policies without much sensitivity to the real needs of

body who has tried to influence a local authority decision such as the placing of a crossing or traffic is-

land will see the truth of this. Some of the most successful clusters are in new science parks developed with the direct input of the businesses using them. This is a sign that it has been too hard to generate the same hives of entrepreneurship and wealth creation in existing urban centres, despite their huge advantages such as shops, cafés and bus stops.

The success of the out-of-town science park is a badge of business failure for town centres, just as much as the existence of the outof-town shopping centre. Many new husinesses have decided they will create their own places, but it would boost British productivity if ail places could be made as attractive to companies.

*The Richness of Cities: Final Report, by Ken Worpole and Liz Greenhalgh, Comedia and Demos, £15, tel 01509 890068



Lyric Hughes used her contacts as a springboard for the company's success

Sinead Lynch/Financial Times

China yields to a brave new Web BY DIANE COYLE 邓小平同志追悼大会 "IF WE were making a profit aleady, I wouldn't be doing my job," says Lyric Hughes, chief executive of China Online, a

Memorial rites for the Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping,

the aftermath of whose death was reported earliest by Lyric Hughes, later chief executive of China Online

a distribution mechanism it would have taken us many

online husiness. Her original plan to hring news out of China to the world has expanded to inyears and much more money." clude taking the world into Most people assume that China. Chinese Internet service any online provider in China has a problem with state providers are few and weak, yet there is huge demand for censorship, but Ms Hughes is vehement in her rejection of Chinese-language content. "I'm this idea. The authorities are causing some alarm to my board. I had thought we would extremely concerned ahout do this some years down the pornography, hut otherwise line, but this business moves inregard the Internet as a useful credibly quickly." she says. She means of free expression, she is also considering expanding argues. Not once have they complained to her about any her Internet news service to news item carried by the serother relatively unwired parts

The genesis of China Online Chinese premier, reads regularly. This contrasts sharply was her 20 years' experience with the control freaks at Miworking for an international marketing agency that served crosoft, for example, who exert US companies in China. Her considerably more effort than expertise and contacts allowed the Chinese government to dicher to fax out information about tate China Online's content. events in the aftermath of the Her new amhition is to death of Deng Xiaoping earlier create, in addition to the existthan anybody else - earlier ing English language news sereven than the Chinese newsvice on China, a package of papers since they provided her news, entertainment and sport with news before printing it in Chinese for China. The struc-

But it was the growth of the Internet as a means of distribution that allowed her to set up providers to thrive domesti-

of the globe, such as Africa.

one-year-old Internet company.

for funds, financing the new

company is proving almost

alarmingly easy. "To start with

I would go to all sorts of lengths

for a \$100,000 investment, hut

recently people have been ring-

This eagerness to invest in

the Internet is expanding Ms

Hughes's ambitions, and their

range offers an insight into the

almost endless possibilities still

ing up to offer tens of millions, she says. "I do return all the

calls still," she adds.

Yet after an initial scramble

China Online. "We are a cally. They are small and weak, technology-enabled company," so the market is effectively available to the pioneers of she says. "Without the Weh as open to an outsider.

Ms Hughes approached Ark Capital, a Chicago-based venture capital firm specialising in ethnic minority husinesses, to help to raise an initial \$5m a year ago. She is the first female entrepreneur backed by Ark. Of the 1,800 venture capitalbacked start-ups in the US last year, 50 are headed by women. The company's financial

plan envisages hreak-even point next year or soon after hut the timing depends on the choice of strategy. The more ambitious it is, the later the vice, which Zhu Rongji, the profits start to roll in. The point, she argues, is to build a brand name and ensure that the company is first in its field. That is what huilds competitive strength in the fledgling Internet economy.

Ms Hughes is the absolute antithesis of the computer nerds who have founded so many other e-businesses. Her senior colleagues in the 28 person company include Doug McGill, who set up the Bloomherg operation in Hong Kong. Tha company's chairman is David Hale, the economic pundit at the Zurich Group in

Chicago. Then there are the employees: "They are there when I get to work and I have to send them home at night,". says Ms Hughes, who has two children, China Online has more than 300 consultants and analysts to call on.

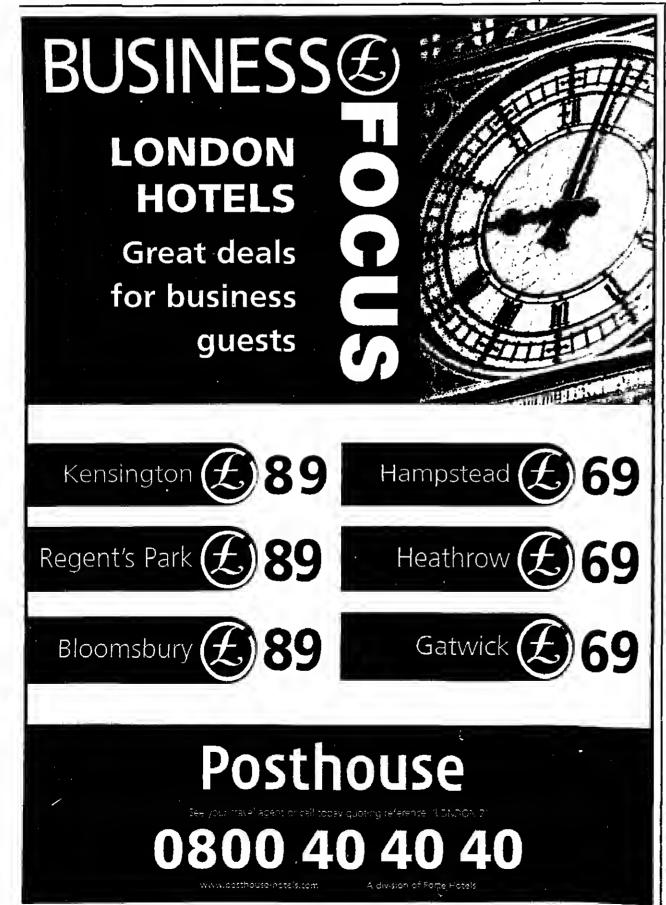
There are three existing strands to the husiness. It is a ... news agency, which has customers such as Reuters and the ... Financial Times. It provides a proprietary database and information service to corporate customers, including giants such as AT&T, that do husiness

Thirdly, and perhaps still most important for growth, China Online is setting up partnerships with e-commerce companies, which will allow them to crack the enormous Chinese market. China already has 4 million Internet users, more than the UK. This is forecast to grow to 10 million by next year and overtake the US online market by about

2006. "People in China don't really have access to shops and goods at all. They don't have banks as we know them," she says, arguing that the country might well skip the stage of having high street shops and banks.

Ms Hughes clearly has a vision of almost infinite possibilities for her business, combined with a sense of urgency about the need to grow. As with so the many net entrepreneurs, whose enthusiasm is perhaps the most convincing argument for believing the US economy does have new fundamental strength, Ms Hughes sees a hright future for her China Online. "Perhaps we will hit a hrick wall, but if you're not running so fast that you might crash into the wall, you're not running fast enough," she says.

http://www.chinaonline.com



only with a limited number of monts available at these promotional rates. Bookings to be made we Central Reservations prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offse promotion. Positionase hotels reserves the right to suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or guaranteed bookings cancelled after 2pm on day of arrival with the fable to a nor

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE: JOHN MONKS

Why my union wars ended

JOHN MONKS, 53, was educated at technical school and at Nottingham University. He spent two years in the electronics industry before joining the TUC in 1969. He became its deputy general secretary in 1987, and general secretary in 1993. He is also a visiting professor at Umist.

My biggest mistake was to believe so long in conflict being inevitable in the world of work. I strongly believed unions were there to explain and manage discontent, and that meant there would be a high degree of dispute. That was the general view. There was a lot of conflict in the late 1970s and early 1980s - at least one major strike a year.

It was also philosophical; I believe organisations are pluralist in a social sense and there's a difference of interests, and that was tha pre-



ture of local telecommunica-

tions costs has made it

impossible for Internet service

vailing philosophy of industrial relations. I didn't take a Marxist view, more a social democratic perspective in the European sense. It seemed to be the way things were.

But there was clearly a decline in the hig areas of traditional manufacturing, and there had been three million jobs lost in factories between 1980 and 1983 - so there had been quite a hig loss of union membership, and neither the as it had been in the 1970s. I industrial military strategy had worked, nor the political strategy. Labour didn't get elected in 1987, and it was looking long odds that they would ever get elected. The Damascus experience,

for me, was in that year. We conducted a survey of what people wanted from work, and we found most people liked the organisation for which they worked, and they wanted the esteem of the person for whom they worked. What people wanted was to do better, rather than look for dispute.

It led me to think hard about what unions should be doing, and to he a leading advocate for partnership. I thought about how we would translate it into union strategy-and I realised that was the challenge. We had to appeal to people in the changing world, not wish the world was hack hy the end of the year.

started to put these things into practice more when I became general secretary of the TUC.

The TUC had to move from being a hureaucratic, processled organisation to one that was project-dominated, with people measured hy outcomes. We wanted to make partnerships with employers the goal, seeking relationships to gain trust, and using that basis to change quickly and smoothly without disputes and disruption.

We have started to evangelise this kind of trade union. Many companies still don't respond positively to the partnership message.

But an increasing number do, including Tesco, Legal & General, Barclays, British Aerospace, Co-op Bank and the Inland Revenue. We aim to double the number

to have

7 4 A M 14

T. Fagg

BRITISH TELECOM was in the news

again earlier this week. Telecom

Italia, the former state-owned uper-

ator, was reportedly looking for a

white knight to rescue it from a hos-

tile takeover by Olivetti, the type-

writer-maker that has reinvented

itself as a telecom group. As a former state-owned company itself, BT was

named as an ideal candidate to step

As it happens, the odds are that

BT will not bid for Telecom Italia. But

the mere fact that the company is

named as a leading candidate - and

the fact that its shareholders do not

panic at the prospect of it mounting

a 55bn Euro (£37bn) acquisition - is

a sign of how far BT has come in a

It may seem hard to believe now.

hut it's less than two years since BT

was seen as the company that need-

ed rescuing. The former monopoly

appeared to be under attack from all

sides. Aggressive new operators

were luring away its most lucrative

business customers by offering bet-

ter services at cheaper rates. Its res-

idential customer hase, under

pressure from the cable operators.

seemed condemned to a fate of

tablish a clear lead in the emerging

mobile phone market. Two failed

mergers - first with Cahle & Wire-

less, then with MCI of the United

States - had left its international

strategy in tatters. Critics were

beginning to question the manage-

ment skills of Sir Peter Bonfield, the

is riding bigh, prompted by an

explosion of data and Internet traffic

that has helped give its residential

business a new lease of life. A £10bn

international joint venture with

AT&T, the US giant, has restored

BT's credibility with its largest in-

Still, stock markets are prone to

"What we are facing is that every

transform ourselves," says Andy

Green, BT's director of strategy

and development. "After first down-

telecommunications company."

sizing and then making ourselves

exaggeration. If investors were pre-

maturely writing off BT two years

ternational clients.

around the corner

newly appointed chief executive, Today, the situation could hardly be more different. BT's share price

The group had taken its eye off Cellnet, allowing rival Vodafone to es-

managed decline.

relatively short space of time.

into the breach.

THE INDEPENDENT Needing day 14 April 1991

and applied they will be supplied to

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CORPORATE PROFILE

wo years ago BT's primacy in telecoms was under threat as aggressive newcomers outmanoeuvred the company. Now it is in a position to take on (or take over) allcomers. But it's not just talking a good game...

BY PETER THAL LARSEN



Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of BT, finishing a quick call before announcing the company's results in November 1998

The call of the wired

about everything BT does at the mo-ment. The company is pouring cash saging and e-mail services. And BT ago, they are probably being a shade over-enthusiastic about its prospects at the moment. In the fast-forward into building new Internet-based orld of technological innovation, the next major challenge is only just networks, both in the UK and in continental Europe, while capping the amount it spends on its traditional circuit-switched network. The same four years we need to completely Internet-based architecture will

high-speed Internet access over more marketing-driven, we need now to turn ourselves into a data copper telephone wires) should be available later this year. "We see the He is referring to the projected exfuture as a world that is 'always on' plosion in data traffic, belped by the with significantly higher bandwidth growth of the Internet and the arrival available in the home," says Mr

of Internet-based technologies. Green. which allow large amounts of infor-Meanwhile, BT has linked up mation to be squeezed down existing with Microsoft to explore the possibility of piping Internet-based sertelephone lines. At the moment, vices to mobile phone terminals. most telecom firms make the lion's share of their revenues from tradi-Cellnet, which even though it is not tional voice calls. Over the next wholly-owned has now been fully indecade, however, voice is likely to be tegrated into BT's management structure, is also attempting to reovertaken by data. gain some of the ground it has lost This realisation underlies just

is carefully planning its bid for one of the five third-generation UK mo-, bile phone licences, which will make mobile phones capable of highspeed data communications.

Yet some wonder whether this will form the basis of BT's joint venture be enough. After all, BT's success so far has come partly from being in the At the same time, ADSL ta right place at the right time. The sud-echnology that gives customers den acceleration in local call rev-

Based in St Paul's.

City of London

Chairman:

Market

£70bn

£3.2bn

1997/98:

Chief Executive:

Sir Peter Bonfield

Capitalisation:

Pre-tax profit

Sir lain Vallance (right)

enues - a main feature of its last set a market innovator, but on the other service aggressively, reaping the of quarterly results - was largely attributable to the free Internet services that were pioneered by the likes of Dixons' Freeserve.

Number of

7.8 million

Number of

customers:

customers:

Employees:

cellular

4 million

500.000

125,000

business lines:

internet access

The picture is complicated by BT's continued dominance of the UK residential market - 15 years after privatisation, it still has more than 80 per cent of all residential customers. "On the on

Turnover 1997/98:

residential lines:

£15.6bn

Number of

20.1 million

An example is ADSL, which is likely to have an expensive price tag

BRITISH TELECOM

share price, pence

hand it's a market defender," says benefits in terms of the extra Chris Godsmark, telecoms analyst traffic that the availability of highat Investec Henderson Crosthwalte. speed Internet and data services This translates into a reluctance to would almost certainly generate. introduce any innovations that might But the feeling is that the "beanundermine the existing revenue counting" mentality still prevalent in parts of BT will probably prevent

such a move. supplying the pipes for telecom traffic has been lucrative for BT so far, the worry is that this will become a commodity product with rapidly

"Where BT has been less successful is in becoming a dominant retail Internet company," says Investec's Mr Godsmark. "It could have already become a portal operator along with the likes of Freeserve."

While Mr Green insists that BT is determined to remain what he calls a "communications company" - it does not plan to expand into tele-

vision or other media - the compa ny is clearly not averse to supplying services. It is an equal shareholder in Open, the interactive shooping service available on the Sky Digital satellite television platform. It also has a sbarebolding in LineOne, the Internet service. Eschewing the term "content", Mr Green opts for a different buzzword - "context" - as a definition of what BT plans to offer.

At the international level, BT has been carefully picking strategic investments in fixed and mobile telecom operators from Italy to Indonesia. The continental European investments are already beginning to generate a profit, although most of the Asian investments are still losing money. An exception is last week's 240m venture in a 20 per cent stake in SmarTone, the highly profitable Hong Kong mobile ohone operator.

The value of these investments is beginning to shine through in BT's share price. "Peopte realise that BT is not just a domestic business," says Jim McCafferty, head of European telecoms research at SG Securities. "They are wondering: 'if Orange is worth £10hn then how many stakes in operators like Orange does BT

Going forward, however, the challenge is to make the most of these investments. When taking a stake, BT normally insists on retaining the right to help choose the operator's technology, even though it may not bave overall control. This allows it to build up experience in one country, which can be transferred to

"BT is transforming itself into more of a normal multinational with a series of global product lines," says

One hole in BT's portfolio is Japan, which is a key market in its quest to build a truly global alliance with AT&T. The two companies are rumoured to be close to investing in Japan Telecom, a smaller operator. But analysts reckon its sights should be set higher. "Toey need to pick up a blg player which would give them access to large Japanese multinahonals," says John Matthews, principal consultant at industry analysts Ovum. "A deal with NTT or KDD

would be a big prize."

A deal in Japan, combined with
the long-awaited buy-out of Securicor's 40 per cent sbareholding in uch a move.

Another concern is that BT will

Cellnet, would belp one of BT share-holders other gripes: its unneceswhen it is first introduced. A more find itself missing the most valuable sarily strong balance spect. The radical option would be to roll out the up to the 50 per cent level from about 3 per cent at the moment. But shareholders have also made it clear that they do not want the casb returned

So BT is looking for investments. But having watched his reputation grow with the help of some clever moves and a following wind, Sir Peter will be reluctant to risk it

If BT does resist the temptation of bidding for Telecom Italia, nothing could better demonstrate how far the company has come in the past

THE PLAYER: IAIN SAVILLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF CRESTCO

aron. As this Riding the electronic crest of a financial wave

registered Vauxhall Carlton Estate. ments system in the world," said Mr Pay: £172,000 including bonus in Saville. He was elected chairman of 1998. He sings with the Dulwich Choral Society.

CHALLENGE: "To win the hearts and minds of our customers," says Mr Saville, following the "monumental flop" that was Talisman, the old Stock Exchange settlement system. His mission is to persuade retail investors to follow institutional investors and "move into an electronic world" where there are no paper share certificates.

CORPORATE BACKGROUND: Mr Saville set up CRESTCo in 1994, vities, through CREST. while on secondment from the Bank to complete the establishment of CREST the electronic settlements system for corporate securities in

ECSDA, the association of European Depositories, in March 1998.

Prior to joining CRESTCo, he worked at the Bank of England as an economist. From 1986-93, he managed the UK's \$40bn (£25bn) of foreign reserves in bond and money market derivatives worldwide. STRATEGY: Mr Saville sees

form for the future". The objective is to persuade businesses, regulators and customers to settle additional financial instruments, other than eqof England. In 1997, he left the Bank money market instruments will

Over the next 18 months, gilts and start to be settled through CREST with the hope that unit trusts and other mutual funds will follow at a the UK and Ireland, which was the later date. Fidelity, M&G. Gartmore successor to the failed TAURUS pro- and Royal Sun Alliance have all ject. CREST was delivered on time expressed support for the idea. Mr

PERSONAL DETAILS: Aged 50. and to budget in July 1996. "We have Saville says: "We are giving them Lives in south London. Drives K- the most capable real time settle- the opportunity of a much-enhanced. secure distribution channel to the wholesale market."

> According to Mr Saville, electronic settlement through CREST would be cheaper, quicker and would allow customers to make further use of their investment in CREST systems. This, in turn, is expected to drive down costs all round the financial services industry. CREST offers "a single market of excellence in cash market settlement", says Mr CREST as a "great technical plat-. Saville.

The industry is now routinely processing volumes thought unimaginable four or five years ago. CRESTCo currently settles about 150,000 transactions each day, worth £35bn. Before CREST, one in five trades failed to settle on time. Now that figure has improved to fewer than one in 20, with most of the problems originating in bargains where people are using paper share certificates. For large institutions the error rate is below one in 100. Over



80 per cent of the market capitalisation of UK shares are now held in electronic form. "I would be surprised if customers don't think CREST is working for them," said ing and settling UK and Irish secu-

He is also keen to foster closer re- MANAGEMENT STYLE: "Inladonships with other major European settlement systems, although he says "huilding these links is not easy". A common model will have to be agreed, to enable stock issued in one country to be held and settled in another.

"We have shared interests in opening up our systems to each other," says Mr Saville, who forecasts good market growth in the short to medium term. But competition may prove to be a problem in the long term. "The end game is likely to be a single hub for Europe," says Mr In July, a link will be made to

Switzerland, with other countries to follow in due course. The major use of the links, unitially, is likely to be for the settlement of small and mediumsized trades in European securitles. CREST's objective is to make holding and settling European securines look as similar as possible to hold-

tensely open and consultative, hut hard-driven," says Mr Saville. One hundred and eighty people are employed in open-plan offices at CRESTCo - very few of them are conventional back office people. There is a "very flat, open and cooperative management structure", says Mr Saville. "People should be able to participate in the development of the business."

MOST ADMIRES IN BUSINESS: Howard Davies, chairman of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). He has brought good humour, elegance and energy to starting to create a unified regulator," in Mr Saville's opinion. He also respects Iain Vallance,

chairman of BT, "who did a wonderful job of turning BT into a real business using both drive and energy". In both cases, Mr Saville says leadership was important added to the ability "to take people in a new direction".

managing partner at Killik & Co stockbrokers, thinks most people are "impressed with what CREST has achieved in the aftermath of the TAURUS fiasco. Ian Saville and his team bave really sbown great strength in driving the project forward," said Mr Ort, whose clients are keen to invest in the likes of Nokia, Siemens and some of the American technology stocks.

"CREST is the best hope we have got for European settlement," says Justin Urqhuart Stewart, corporate development director of Barclays Stockbrokers. At the moment, hecause of the plethora of charges involved, most private investors are better off with investment trusts or unit trusts if they want to bold overseas shares.

Mr Urqhuart Stewart says that the proof of whether CREST's European links have worked will be when "I can settle a trade in Deutsche Telecom for much the same cost as I can for BT".

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THE CANARY

Barclays farce: To say that the decision to retire Mike O'Neill (below) on health grounds on the first day of his iob as chief executive of Barclays took the organisation by surprise is something of an understatement. When the call came through last Thursday from

California

informing the

acting chief Sir Middleton that his new recruit was suffering from more than flu he was just about to take a weekend away with Lady Middleton to mark the fact that he was about to hand over the reins and settle back

to his part-time role as non-

back to square one.

C'est la vie.

comment".

executive chairman. Now it is

Gorgeous George: The financier George Soros's third place in a list of Britain's 1,000 richest people, published last weekend, provokes a couple of thoughts, First, we always thought George was a Hungarian living In America. Second, his funds have had a ghastly start to the year. The \$6.9bn (£4,1bn) Quantum Fund lost 15.5 per cent of its net assets in the first quarter of 1999. If he invests in his own funds perish the thought - his wealth should have shrunk rather than grown. A call to Soros Fund Management's headquarters to answer these pressing concerns is met with a firm "No

Merrill merger: The courtship between Chase Manhattan, the glant American commercial bank. and Merrill Lynch, the glant American investment bank, is said to be nearing consummation. There is no official confirmation, but tall to anyhody in Merrill Lynch's London office, where a deal is expected around July and the conversation inevitably turns to the value of their share options. "We'll wait for the share price to peak, then head off," says our source at Merrill in London.

Going green: Despite record revenue in 1998, Reuters is planning to move more of its operations from London to Devon, it already has its fixed-Income operations in sleepy Tiverton, Reuters is surprisingly tight-lipped about the plans considering it is an information company, but loval Devon staff say the reason is to cut costs. An average salary in the Tiverton office is around £15,000. That's small beer compared to the £800,000-plus trousered by Peter Job. the \$7-year-old former journalist and chief executive. A decision will be announced in May.

Who is the banker who carries most credit?

MARKET LEADERS PICK THEIR MARKET LEADER

Derek Wanles

Chief Executive, NatWest Bank GIVEN THE many changes that are taking place in retail banking, I would nominate my colleague, Tim Jones, who beads NatWest's retail bank. To be successful in financial services management, you need to be creative as well as having sound financial management skills. Tim has both. He led the team that invented Mondex, the electronic cash purse, belped to pioneer Switch, and he is now responsible for the transformation of NatWest's retail bank into one of the most advanced banking systems anywhere in the world,

From an external perspective, I share everyone's admiration for Sir Brian Pitman, of Lloyds TSB. His contribution to the financial services industry over many years including his commitment to achieving ever improving returns to shareholders are obvious for all to see. He has a formidable track record, combining a far-sighted vision for his own organisation with solid banker values.

Mervyn Pedelty

Chief Executive, Co-op Bank FOR VISION and integrity, I nominate my own predecessor Lord Thomas, His determination to pubbeise the fact that what retail banks actually do is to look after their customers' own money, and that those same customers deserve to know and have a say in how their money is invested, was courageous and laid the foundations for our ethical stance and success. For business acumen, quiet in-

fluence and achievement, I have long admired an often unsung hero. Richard Delbridge, director and CFO of NatWest Group. Richard's career includes the same roles at HSBC and Midland Bank and as UK bead of JP Morgan. I am impressed with NatWest's recent surefootedness in refocusing itself. Richard's steady hand has undoubtedly played its usual key role.

And, no list could be complete without Peter Ellwood, Lloyds TSB's CEO. Peter is an outstanding example of that rare ability to combine strategy formulation with effective implementation.

Group Chief Executive, Alliance & Leicester plo

RETAIL BANKING has changed dramatically during the 1990s with a much greater understanding of the need to improve efficiency and customer service while at the same time focusing on increasing shareholder value. On these criteria it is difficult to look beyond Sir Brian Pitman who, as chief executive of Lloyds Bank (now the Lloyds TSB Group), took what was the smallest of the clearing banks to a leading position in the UK market. His decision to concentrate on a largely domestic strategy while other banks made expensive forays into investment banking et al has been fully vindicated.

Another market leader is Peter Birch who took Abbey National to the stock market in 1989 and helped to show that converted building societies have nothing to fear from the commercial marketplace.

Gary Hoffman Managing Director at Barclays Retail Financial Services IT WOULD be difficult to talk about

personalities in retail banking with-

ly delivered exactly what he's promised. And then there's Martin Taylor who was formerly of Barclays. He brought a completely different style to the running of a traditional bank which was particularly refreshing. He could empathise with the biggest of the institutional shareholders, the smallest of our customers and the people who worked in the bank. He could speak to them all. But really the people I admire most, given that banks are often portrayed as big and bad, are the ones who work on the

retail banking is really all about. Chief Executive, Northern Rock plc SIR BRIAN PITMAN has to top any

front line, providing a day-to-day ser-

vice to the customer. That's what

banking list. He has preached the

virtue of shareholder value and he

focus is a key executive skill and Sir of Lloyds TSB who has consistent-Brian is well endowed in this respect. With the new banks it is impossible not to think of Peter White of Alliance & Leicester. He's an

Sir Brian Pitman: he has 'preached the virtue of shareholder value and has delivered it'

ehullient character, but steely another mandatory quality. Looking at softer management qualities one has to congratulate Brian Davis at Nationwide for rescuing mutuality from a premature demise. He's convinced himself that New Mutuality is as significant as New Labour and has gathered many proselytes to his cause. But

which must give their boards of directors pause for thought. Andy Dewhurst Marketing Director, Tesco Personal Finance

the value of mutual building societies is reducing at a steady pace,

I ADMIRE Sir George Mathewson. of the Bank of Scotland, because he is one

commitment to customers and thus was quick to spot the potential of supermarket banking. Supermarkets have been able to invade the banks' territory so successfully because so many bankers treat customers as an afterthought. I am impressed by George's vision in developing nonbanking activities. He has encouraged Direct Line to change the face of general insurance by offering convenience, value and high-quality service. He has shown similar vision in developing telephone banking and now in providing what I think is Britain's best Internet banking site.

Frank Sullivan General Manager, Allied Irish Bank

I WOULD like to nominate Peter Ellwood. Group Chief Executive at Lloyds TSB. His company's recent performance is evidence that he and his team have found a successhas delivered it. Absolutely clear of those rare bankers who shares our ful formula. Through an acquisition

strategy and a "no tronsense, value for money" approach, they have recorded an excellent performance. Integrating new husinesses, like C&G, is one thing. What is even more impressive is that Peter and his colleagues have managed to add value in doing so. Too often, the result of a merger or acquisition is a blurred, compromised approach. In the Lloyds TSB case, they have come up with an even stronger customer proposition. The new bank focuses on a small number of products, cutting down potential for customer confusion and red tape, placing a high value on customer service. The bank's strategy appears clear and simple. Ellwood has managed to simplify a

mature organisation effectively. Ian Harley

Chief Executive, Abbey National OBVIOUSLY, I am enormously impressed with my own team. But if I had to pick one person who stands

out in retail banking, it would be Bill Doulton from Midland. He's something of an outsider in our industry really - he's a Canadian. He's fairly new and bas very refreshing ideas. He is willing to challenge established views in banking. He has tried to inject our banking estab-lishment with something of the interesting things that they are doing over in Canada. He is full of energy and enthusiasm and resilience. He is a tough chap but has bumility.

John Clifford Chief Executive, Allied Irish Bank THERE ARE two banks which we find it difficult to win business from the Bank of Scotland and Lloyds; for this reason, I have great respect and admiration for both. In the Bank of Scotland's case, Sir Bruce Patullo overcame the disadvantage of having little or no presence in England in the early 1930s by successfully developing alternative channels - electronic and partner-

ships - which have allowed it to

reach large numbers of customers

without the need for branches. However, my vote for the most influential leader in our industry must go to Sir Brian Pitman who has transformed Lloyds bank from "one of the pack" in UK banking to a highperforming husiness that is admired internationally. He has been the UK's leading proponent of shareholder value even before it was popular or well understood, and his relentless pursuit of value, and the clarity and simplicity with which he communicates it sets him apart. He has shown great courage and selfbelief in resisting the temptation to follow the herd in expanding internationally or into investment hanking - both directions have proved very costly for his erstwhile larger competitors. He has equally demonstrated vision and consistency in pursuing his value-based strategy through astute acquisi- (a tions and through divestment of noncore businesses at home and abroad. The measure of his success in translating philosophy into reality is best illustrated by his outstanding record of doubling shareholder value every three years for the past 15 years.

Ray Entwhistle

Chief Executive, Adam and Co plc 1 AM a great admirer of Sir Brian Pitman and the dynamic force he has Geraint Lewis shown as a banker along with Jeremy Morse, former Chairman of Barclays, and Sir George Mathewson. of the Bank of Scotland. In the 1970s and 1980s Sir Brian was probably one of the most powerful men in banking, and going back 20 years I remember meeting him at a dinner party. I found it intriguing that a man of his status was prepared to listen to someone of my somewhat lower status. Without a doubt he was the forerunner of the transformation of the banking industry. He was totally focused on shareholder value. Interestingly he was ruthless in getting rid of the over-50s from the business because they were too highly paid, in his opinion, and be was the first to recognise this. I find what he's done slightly heartrending; he has removed the traditional professional banker and has replaced him or her with a highly trained sales force - but he bas been enormously successful. He has done what he was paid to do.

INTERVIEWS BY SALLY CHATTERTON



The old common sense will not do

By Michael Lissack and Johan Roos (Nicholas Brealey Publishing, £18)

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES, the US regional carrier run by Herb Kelleher, has in recent years become a darling of management writers. It has been praised for its enlightened attitudes towards its staff and, most famously, for thinking "outside the box" - it measures turn-around times against Formula One pit-stop crews, not other airlines.

Now, we are told, it is practising "the next common sense". According to Michael Lissack an investment banker-turned-strategic adviser, and Johan Roos, professor of strategy and general management at the International Institute for Management Development in Switzerland, this involves stepping back from the details to is really happening.

Their starting point is Alexander the Great and the Gordian knot. "Many before Alexander had tried and failed, thinking that the knot was complicated and needed to be untied," they write. Only Alexander saw that a simple action, cutting through the knot with a single stroke of his sword, would move through the complexity to a higher plane, namely ruling Asia. The authors claim that we all face our own Gordian knots, and untying them simply requires common sense".

The only problem is that the old common sense will not do. That, they say, was about how to deal with the separate and free-standing units of a complicated world. Now, that complication has been replaced by complexity, where various relationships, alliances and netinterweaving events and situations. The new common gain a vantage point on what sense is about creating done, regardless of whose tice by saying that executives



Which is where Southwest Airlines comes in. According to Lissack and Roos, the company embodies coherence by baving each employee "think and act like an owner". They point out how Southwest's elimination of inflexible work works create a swirl of rules and rigid job descriptions allows its people to assume ownership for getting the job official responsibility it is.

Accordingly, the authors report: "When a flight is running late because of bad weather, it's not uncommon to see pilots helping customers in wheelchairs board the plane, helping the operations agents take boarding passes or the flight attendants clean up the cabin between flights."

But how do other organisations emulate such attitudes? Lissack and Roos offer "10 guiding principles to provide you with the sense of coherence you need, as well as five practical steps for putting the principles into action".

Some of the principles appear a little vague. But many of the others provide powerful insights. This is particularly so of the first - use simple guiding principles, on the basis that "life is complex enough without adding complication to it". Moreover, Lissack and Roos go completely against management consultants' pracsbould use "landscape

metaphors" to describe the business environment and the processes taking place The five steps are commendably straightforward, if a little repetitive - identify yourself and your goals, use the right language, create the right context, turn people loose and then get out of the way, using

communication that works. So who measures up to this new reality? Hi-tech companies, such as Intel and America On Line, are prominent. But the authors also point to Virgin, and the credit card agency Visa International. Virgin is well known for its ability to develop operations in everything from transatlantic air transport to cola. Less familiar is how Visa raised itself from the mess that was the infant credit card business through, say Lissack and Roos, developing "coherence

in action and viewpoint". Will other financial services organisations follow suit? ROGER TRAPP

MY FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

Top of the trattorias

MARGARET BARBOUR, chairman of South Shields-based J Barbour & Sons, makers of the eponymous waxed jackets. has to travel to Bologna for a meal at her favourite restaurant, the traditional, family-run Antica Trattoria

Da Sandro al Navile. She was introduced to the trattoria, which is tucked away off one of Bologna's main streets, through the Calori family, owners of Barbour's Italian business partner, WP Lavori, based in the northern Italian city.

"Whatever husiness we may be discussing in their offices, everything stops at 12.30pm for lunch, and we decamp to Sandro's," says Barbour "All our important decisions and agreements have been reached around the luncheoo table at Sandro's." The trattoria makes its

own pasta daily, with the hutterfly-shaped tortellini a speciality. Other favourites include foglia morta, thinly



Margaret Barbour: Work in Italy stops for lunch

sliced yeal served with fresh rocket, and rabbit cooked in balsamic vinegar. When Barbour notched its centenary in 1994, Sandro's was the venue for celebrations with the Italian partners. They were served wild mushroom risotto in a lattice hasket of

Parmesan cheese. never been shown a menu. 39 051 634 31001

Nor have I seen a menu consulted. The customers either know what they want, or rely upon the advice of Sandro and

The food is always accompanied by lively conversation, which inevitably comes back to business."

One of ber special pleasures when visiting is watching the preparation of the trattoria's special dessert of vanilla ice-cream flavoured

with balsamic vinegar. However, she has had to learn to control ber expressions of gastronomic delight. As she explains: "On an early visit, after commenting on the quality of the Parmesan, I found myself with a chunk that was big enough to put me seriously over the excess

baggage limit." NAOMI MARKS

Antica Trattoria Da Sandro al Novile. Via Del Sosiegno 15, But Margaret says: "I have 40100 Bologna (Telephone 00

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shounve: the sec

7 MAS

umn, temporarily vacated by

Jonathan Davis this week, will

have noticed, hopefully, his em-

phasis on a key fund management

issue: delivering good value for

ply an emphasis on outstanding

fund performance (any manager

with a sense of pride in his or her

work will strive to achieve this; but

on that performance relative to the

charges levied on the fund itself.

funds in recent years have tended

to be trackers, which replicate in

some form the performance of one

of a range of share indices, he

UK-linked trackers when compared

with their more actively managed

rivals speaks for itself. In the past

three years. Gartmore's UK Index

fund, an All-Share tracker, delivered

growth of 67.2 per cent. This per-

formance places it in 23rd place

In recent years, the record of

they in the UK or worldwide.

For Jonathan, the best "value"

By this term, he means not sim-

investors money.

THE INDEPENDENT

out in recall banking it would be Doubles from Midland He can the can be seen as a Canadian He can be can be seen as a Canadian He can be seen as a Canadian He can be iv new and has very reference to blashed views in banking he to true our banking to institute in the comeding of the teresting trans that they are necessary across that they are necessary across the is full of the control of the and enth wildern and resilience as a tough chap but has humis

John Clifford

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Be ready now the CATs are out of the bag

sector, which consists of 130 funds.

Virgin Direct's tracker achieved

near identical performance: £6,000

invested in April 1996 would now be worth £10,035. Performance, however, is not the only criteria by which we can nies almost in the same proportion assess whether a fund delivers value. Closely linked to it is the cost of investing in the fund itself. Quite clearly, a unit trust with a bid/offer spread (the difference between buying and selling a fund) of 5 or even 6 per cent, plus annual management charges of 1.5 per cent, will have to deliver considerably better performance year after year than a fund that has no initial charges and levies only a 0.5 per cent

management fee each year. The evidence is that few activefund managers succeed in delivering the kind of outperformance to justify the higher charges they levy. Indeed, some funds, facing a sharp rise in the value of Footsie company shares, have been forced

ANY REGULAR reader of this col- within the UK growth and income to turn their funds virtually into "closet trackers".

According to a recent survey by Money Marketing, a specialist magazine aimed at financial advisers, some managers are buying shares in leading Footsic compaas trackers themselves.

For instance, the top 10 Foutsie stocks at the beginning of March were BP Amoco. Glaxn Wellcome, British Telecom, Lloyds TSB, HSBC Holdings, SmithKline Beecham, Vodafone, Shell, Barclays and Diageo.

Taking three funds as an example - Fidelity's UK Growth, Hill Samuel British Unit Trust and Henderson UK Capital Growth funds - all held shares in between seven and 10 of these top 10 Footsic companies, in roughly the same proportions as their weighting in the index.

The position on charges has become even more complicated by the Treasury's attempts to ensure



INVESTMENT

NIC **CICUTTI**

CATmarks offer the potential for investors to tell at a glance whether the contracts they are signing offer fair charges on their money

that investors in the new Individual Savings Account (ISA), the tax-free wrapper that replaced PEPs last week, should operate some form of benchmark system.

CATmarks (the initials stand for low Charges, easy Access and fair Terms! are its preferred solution. Essentially, any company that aims to claim a CATmark for its investment fund must charge no more than 1 per cent in annual management fees, while the minimum investment should be no more than \$50 a month or \$500 for lump sums.

Fund management companies have led a powerful rearguard action against CATmarks. They argue that more naive savers will be led to believe that the use of a CAT standard means the fund itself carries some sort of government seal of approval.

Second, and linked to the above, it is argued that by demanding such a low initial charge tinstead of a more typical 5 per cent feet, a

CATmark bars independent financial advisers (IFAs) from offering proper advice to savers.

This is a powerful argument. which the Government has tried to counter by suggesting that IFAs should be prepared to operate on a fee-paid basis when giving advice on equity-linked ISAs. But clearly many clients, used to the notion that their IFA is somebow magically able to recommend oroducts without them ever having to pay hard cash for his advice, are likely to balk at paying £200 or more for the

Even so, the fund management industry's strictures on the need for proper advice would have had more validity were it not for the sight of investors queuing over the Easter bank holiday, all aiming to beat the S April deadline for last-minute PEPs. As many interviews revealed at the time, many bad no idea what they were doing or of the tax-effectiveness of PEPs relative to their fioancial needs.

Bureaucratic they may be, and set at slightly too low a level for fund managers' comfort. Even so. CATmarks still offer the potential for investors to tell whether the contracts they are entering into offer fair charges on their money.

Barely a handful of ISA providers have chosen to offer CATmarked funds. Those that have agreed met this week to devise a common logo.

It is too soon to say whether this will raise the profile of CATmarked runds and prompt other providers to offer similar ones. Perhaps the only way this will happen will be if it becomes clear that investors are seeking out funds with low entry costs and decent performance.

Even if CATmarks are not the magic answer to investors' prayers at least they raise questions about what we pay fund managers to look after our money - and what we get back in return. In the case of many pooled fund investments, the answer is: oot much

Should you invest in... the retail sector?

AFTER A period of great uncertainty investors are considering the retail sector, "Investors have seen the trend to lower interest rates and they are looking for a consumer recovery as a result," says Ashley Willing of Gartmore Fund Managers.

"People are buying into consumer stocks in the bope of this recovery and in the belief that we are not going into recession."

This will come not a moment too soon for the beleaguered retail sector. Patrick Evershed, a fund manager at Rathbone Brothers, says: Retailers have been under pretty severe pressure recently. The prime example is Marks & Spencer If M&S bas had a rough time, you can be certain it has been even worse for lots of other companies."

The size and reputation of M&S has meant that its difficulties have cast a sbadow over the whole sector. "The sector is a headache for us," says Geoff Miller head of research at Drewin Dol. lat. Some fries.

"You have one very large company, Marks & Spencer, at the head of the sector, which we would not touch with a bargepole. We have a neutral recommendation for the sector which means we like five of its major stocks but don't like the The problem with M&S is that it

has been very slow to confront its own difficulties. "M&S is a very interesting example of a company that has got it strategically wrong, he adds. "Unlike Next, which held its hands up, admitted its mistakes and put them right, M&S blamed everything apart from themselves. Now they have finally admitted they have got it wrong, it will take a very long time to sort things out."

Another problem facing the retailers has been the reluctance of consumers to come out and spend in many areas.

"It is baffling where consumers' money has gone," Evershed adds. "Interest rates are falling and the economic background is healthy, but consumers don't seem to be spending. There is a surprising disparity between the buoyancy of the housing market and retail sales."

That said, there are signs of considerable confidence behind the bigger players in the sector. M&S excluded. "There are five retailers which are very good companies but, BY KEIRON ROOT

because they sit just behind the sector leader, they can be tarred with same brush," says Geoff Miller.

"Kingfisher is a good play on Eu-rope, as well as the UK, with its French expansion, and European consumer confidence is still sky high. Boots has got over its problems of a pricy acquisition in the Eighties, sorted itself out and is producing very strong results. GUS is almost as much a financial services business these days as a retailer. Dixons is a play on the Internet and the expanding electronic goods market. Next is the best of the clothing retailers.'

Ashley Willing agrees that it is the major players that warrant the most interest. "It is the Dixons and the Kingfishers, companies that have strong franchises within their sectors, that we are most interested in," he sags. "Whet we would look to avoid are those retailers who need inflation to get their pricing through and steer clear of franchises that are undifferentiated from their peers."

He cites Kingfisher and Next as examples of this type of strong franchise. "Kingfisber has B&Q and its European husiness is very strong, whilst Next has maintained its franchise after a period of difficulties." he says. "But more generally, clothing is one of those areas where we are wary of becoming involved as it is very difficult to differentiate yourself.

Patrick Evershed adds: "There have been some much bigger disparities within the sector over recent months. Some companies have been doing pretty well and others have been suffering very severely.

"The food retailers have been doing all right, with Tesco doing particularly well and increasing market share, but they all may be hit by a monopolies investigation."

One area that has suffered has been consumer durables in general and furniture retailers in particular "Furniture has gone through an especially bad period," Evershed pomts out. "This is particularly baffling because the housing market has been booming and when the housing market is strong furniture usually does well."

He suggests the recent under-



Shoppers at a branch of B&Q, part of the Kingtisher group, which is one of the biggest players in the retail sector

performance of furniture retailers could be due to a previously unforeseen boom.

"One explanation could be that two years ago, with the demutualiit is perhaps not that 1908 was a very had year hut that 1997 was exceptionally good. But the trend is continuing and the latest figures from John Lewis show sales are still sig-

nificantly down." He highlights the parallel expeshow the variety of performance Phù Harris' company, has been doing particularly well. hut This argument also leads us back Allied Carpets has been doing very to Kingfisher, with Patrick Evershed badly," he says. "Management skills seem to have been ever more im-

Some types of retailer have undoubtedly done better than others. Patrick Evershed says: "Another area that has been doing well is DIY as that does go up in line with house prices, and anything to do with

solid performer is Era Group, which owns Beattles, the games and hohhies chain, where one-third of Its sations, furniture sales boomed. So business is in computer games

"Electronic Boutique has also been doing well for similar reasons. Dixons has also come up very strongly, partly because of its Internet service, coupled with the arrival of digital TV.

"Initially, digital TV is seen as a rience of the carpet retailers to negative because it means people will stop buying existing equipment. within the sector. "Carpetright.

Phil Harris' company, has been selling digital TV will do very well."

pointing out that the company's

ownership of Comel gives it a stake portant over the last year than in the in the digital revolution. Geoff Miller also notes that Kingfisher may well benefit from M&S' continued troubles. The weighting of M&S has come down quite considerably," he says, "It is now much closer to Kingtisher and if it con-

computer services and the Internet M&S may even lose its top spot." The has been strong. One example of a generally positive economic background also gives considerable

grounds for optimism. Ashley Willing says: "We are in a low-inflation, low-growth environment, so sales will improve, although we are not going to see stellar volumes. Consumers will be very price aware and very value aware and will go for the retailers with strong franchises or a dominant

market position. "That is why we would look at the majors, where we see better growth and better prospects and stay away

from the second-line retailers." Others take a broader view. The fact that so many retail sbares have fallen from grace means that the sector does offer considerable recovery ootential. Geoff Miller says: "We are quite keen on consumer cyclicals, and the recent change in sector classifications has helped this by making investors realise there are some retailers which respond to cyclical factors. Interest rates was partly because they had fallen tinues to underperform the sector, are coming down and we believe too far in the first place,"

there is scope for them to come down further. This will continue to boost consumer confidence and lead to a recovery in these cyclical

stocks," Even the furniture and carpet retailers might benefit. "The really geared plays on consumer cyclicals are the furniture and carnet retailers," be says. "They have got slaughtered but now offer some interesting opportunities if you really believe that there is going to be a pick-up in consumer confidence."

Patrick Evershed says: "There are some very good areas, and so many share prices have fallen so sharply, especially the small companies, that there is considerable scope for improvement. As an example, we have a holding in John David Sports, which sells training shoes. Their shares were at £3.50 in mid-1997 but fell to a low of 48p pretty quickly. They are now just below 130p so they have gone up two and a half times from their low, but this

Jason Bye

SHAREWATCH BUY

Scottish & Southern Energy is fundamentally undervalued, argues Salom Smith Barney, which notes the shares (563p) are trading at about a 20 per cent discount to their sum-of-the-parts valuation. SSE is graded as a low-risk buy, with a price target of 693p. Investec Henderson Crosthwaite has moved Flextech (7750) back to a buy from hold after the full-year results and confirmation of additional investment in new digital interactive services Hen-derson has raised its target price from 705p to 850p.

SELL Stanley Leisure (276p) says Charterhouse, pointing out that prospects in both the provincial casino market and the London bigh-roller market remain bleak. On a prospective p/e multiple of 17.4 and a p/e premium of 19 per cent to the sector. the shares still look too high, adds Charterhouse.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: OUR MAN'S PORTFOLIO

Safeway may be one way to shop for that blue chip bargain

of course, mauled during a bear mar- as shares have hit new highs. ket. And even the best may occasionally fall on hard times, sending their shares skidding into a seemingly bottomless pit, while the rest

There is no doubt that past market setbacks bave presented ideal buying opportunities. The stupefying 1987 meltdown, which prompted investors around the world into blind and panicky selling, is now regarded as little more than a blip. Anyone who did manage to buy at the depressed 1987 prices, and I know dealing then was extremely dif-

make relentless headway. They are, since been able to reap rich rewards 5,700, as about the most bearish dis-

A splendid buying opportunity occurred only months ago. In October, price bargains should seek a blue worries about Asia and Russia and the perceived impact of the near failure of the highly sophisticated Long Term Capital Management hedge fund, sent Footsie sliding to 4,698.9. In the chill autumn climate, for example, Dixons, now 1,473p, was below 500p, and P&O, sailing at

967p, could be found at 489p. Market crashes are often unexpected. Few observers expect one this year. The more realistic pes-

BLUE CHIPS cannot be expected to ficult not to say impossible, has at worst a gentle drift to around play we can expect.

So investors nunting for the cutchip that has fallen out of favour yet should have the strength to recover its winning ways. Safeway could fit the bill. The supermarket chain has had an appalling run, falling from 426.5p to 248p in a few years as profits weakened and the market has questioned its strategy.

Profits are due next month; they will be disappointing. Around 1348m (against £340.2m) is the analytical consensus. A few years ago Safeway



PAIN

grace has been brutal but there is and Tesco and the recovery by the bas already beld talks with Asda; evidence the chain is clawing its way

It was once, of course, the preserve of the legendary Jimmy Gulliver. In his day it aspired to be a leading drinks group as well as a supermarket force. But once it lost the infamous battle with Guinness for control of the staid old Scotch whisky and gin group. The Distillers Co. the Gulliver star waned and the drinks side, his special love, was unceremoniously ditched.

At first the concentration on supermarkets looked a shrewd move. But Safeway has been squeezed by the growing power of J Sainsbury dependence under threat Safeway making a pitch for the chain.

results are in line with expectations Safeway's sbares are clearly unthen 10 times earnings and offer a pretty safe 5.8 per cent dividend vield; not bad in these low interest rate days. A leading analyst, Paul Smiddy at Credit Lyonnais, has called the share price "hidicrous".

The year, which ended last month, may represent the nadir of Safeway's fortunes. But even if there is further disappointment the group, which already looks vulner-

once-ailing Asda. Still if next month's they were abandoned because of perceived Westminster opposition. But other possible buyers hover. Waldervalued. They are selling at less Mart, the big US retail group, bas made no secret of its desire to expand into Europe and a struggling Safeway could well prove to be the vehicle it selects.

Then there is Royal Ahold. The Dutch supermarket chain is man acquisitive mood. Rumours swirled last month it had set its sights on Safeway as the aisle for its British expansion. It will, no doubt, wait until Safeway has rolled out its figures beable to a predator, could find its in- fore deciding whether it is worth

AN INDIVIDUAL Savings Account boasting a government CAT standard is supposed to be "straight forward, clear and fair and offer decent value". But despite the heavy publicity given to the voluntary standards, and the Government's stated desire to see companies competing to beat them and bring down the cost of saving, few ISA companies will be using them.

Some have products that would qualify or be able to qualify with a little tweaking but are in effect boycotting the scheme. Firms not offering CAT marked ISAs say that, far from improving clarity in the crowded savings market - which is another government aim - CATmarks will confuse people into thinking they are a performance guarantee.

They also complain that the tough criteria the standards lay down means they can be used only oo a very oarrow range of products. To qualify for a CATmark an ISA has to match or better criteria laid down hy the Government on charges, access to funds and terms it offers.

The Treasury argues the standards are "challenging hut sustainable". CAT standard stocks and shares ISAs can charge no more than 1 per cent per year of the amount of money invested and have a minimum investment of no more than £500 for a lump sum or £50 per month.

Cash ISAs can levy oo charges other than for replacements such as lost cards, allow withdrawals in no less than seven days and have a minimum investment of no more than £10. They must pay interest of no less than two percentage points below Bank of England base rates and raise rates within a month of the Bank doing so.

Abbey National is launching a CAT standard ISA paying 6 per cent oo deposits from £1, rising to 6.5 per cent on £3,000. But the bank says that while it is offering an insurance-linked ISA, this will not be CATmarked.

CAT standard insurance ISAs as some kind of guarantee. can charge no more than 3 per cent a year, have minimum premiums of no more than £250 for a lump sum or £25 a month, and have surrender values after three years that must shares. at least return the value of what has been paid in.

The Research Department, a financial research firm, has analysed over 128 "mini" ISAs, which offer just one of the three components that can make up an ISA, and 106 "maxi" offerings, which must provide the stocks and shares element and can add a cash or life insurance or both.

standard option, none of six insur- through independent advisers."

BY JAMES MOORE

ance mini ISAs offered CAT standards, and just 39 of 83 cash mini ISAs, offered CAT standard options. As for Maxi ISAs, just 13 of 106 with the compulsory stocks and shares element hoast a CAT standard, while none of six with a life insurance element, and only 15 of 43

Of those CATmarked stocks and shares ISAs on the market, nearly all will be so-called index trackers. which aim to "track" the performance of a recognised stock market index, such as the FTSE 100.

with a cash element, have them.

Norwich Union and Standard Life, however, will be offering "actively managed" funds with CATmarks, which aim to beat either a stock market index or an industry performance benchmark.

But many firms wanting to offer stocks and shares CAT marked products have been forced to cut charges.

Virgin Direct had to drop the £2 fee for moothly contributions into its index-tracking PEP from its index tracking ISA replacement. Legal & Geoeral also ditched moothly fees on three CATmark qualifying funds, Norwich Union had to remove initial charges from its three qualifying actively managed funds, and Stan-dard Life had to cut the annual management fee on its actively managed CATmark fund from 1.5 to 1 per

Gordoo Maw. Virgin Direct's marketing manager, says the company believes CATmarked ISAs will attract enough savers to make them pay. He says: "We have got through the difficult period and now it looks like CATmarks are established as an important part of the ISA."

Gartmore is ooe company that could easily offer a stocks and shares ISA with a CAT mark but refuses to do so. A spokeswoman says: "Although we agree with improving clarity we think customers will see CATmarks

We think CATmarks are encouraging people to go in without explaining the dangers, they are all right for cash ISAs but not stocks and

Other big-name fund managers such as Jupiter, Perpetual, and Schroders, which do significant husiness with independent financial advisers, have also decided to snub the CATmark scheme.

adviser at DBS, an independent financial advice network, says: "I think more will come on the market It found just 12 out of 86 stocks as more companies look to sell and shares mini ISAs offered a CAT direct to the public rather than



Abbey National is launching a CAT standard ISA that will pay 6 per cent on deposits from £1, rising to 6.5 per cent on savings of £3,000

SNO RUSH TO BUY

NOW THAT we are in the era of individual savings accounts (ISAs), we have much more freedom of choice when it comes to equitylinked investments. No looger do the rules restrict us to just the UK and European stock markets if we want to use our full allowance and take maximum advantage of the tax. benefits as they did with personal equity plans.

Instead, we can put our money anywhere we want and in virtually any sort of fund, apart from venture capital trusts, and shelter the But Neil Liversidge, investment investment from capital gains and

If we choose to invest with a fund management group, then for the next five years it can also reclaim

tax that companies pay on the dividends they distribute.

"But don't feel that you have to rush out and buy an ISA," says Stephen Lansdown, of Hargreaves Lansdown. "Many groups have yet to announce their plans, so it may he worthwhile waiting until you see what they have to offer."

Use the time to sort out your investment priorities. "Attitude to risk is the most important factor when it comes to making investment decisions, and this applies just as much with ISAs." advises Jo North of Pretty Financial "A good independent financial adviser (IFA) can help you with this."

or she will look at your overall porthalf the advanced corporation folio. If you don't want to use one. are new to equity investments,

then there are several points to bear

"If you have been investing in PEPs in the past, then make sure that your ISA choice is complementary," says Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar "What you want is a balanced portfolio, not overexposure to any particular markets. Always bear in mind that ISAs, just like PEPs, are intended for long-

term investment." "Also try to take out your ISA with a group that has a wide range of funds," says Jo North. "Over time, you may want to switch your investments as your priorities change and this will give you a If you decide to use an IFA. he greater degree of choice."

So where should you start. If you

then Roddy Kohn suggests you could take a look at Norwich Union's CATmarked UK Growth

fund or HSBC's FTSE All Share tracker fund as "the UK is likely to be one of the best growth areas this year. Some commentators are already forecasting that the stock market could rise to 7,200 in a year." Stephen Lansdown also advises first-time investors to stick with UK

I need to find out

or European funds for the time being. He points out "just because there is a wider choice with ISAs, you should not forget first principles. These are that your first investments should be at home where the risks are lower. Four years down the road, when your portfolio has grown, then you should consider investing elsewhere in the world".

vestor or in need of income, then all the experts agree on the merits ot the M&G corporate bond funds. Managed by Theodora Zemek, both the conventional and the high-yield funds have produced good performance records. Other than M&G, 'Aberdeen Fixed Interest, Jupiter Income and Perpetual High Income should always be considered", says Stephen Lansdown.

"More adventurous investors should consider growth funds from groups such as Jupiter, Invesco, M&G, Fidelity, Schroder, Heoderson, Gartmore and Save & Prosper" says Jo North. "Tthe best PEP managers are likely to be the best ISA

TONY LYONS

ste accounts and each mini ISA can be held with a different ISA mana

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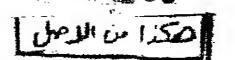
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	k	01438 744505		None £1,
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	INVESTO	MENT TI
	BEST PERFORMING	3
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	mutal £1,000 tump burn, mid-price to mi	d-price
BARL	INVESTMENT TARIST	CALH 1.450.22
-	INVESCO Japan Discovery Wts Ballie Gifford Shio Nippoo W1	4.458 33 3,625 00
2 3	Fidelity Japanese Values Wis	2,771,76
4	Schroder Koreo Fund	2,246 23
5	INVESCO Japan Discovery	2,125 00
tor.	WORST PERFORMIN	
495 496	First Russian Frontiers Tea Plantations Wts	232.17
497	First Russiao Frontiers Wis	117.07
498	City of Oxford Wis	97 56
499	Central European 6th Wis Mean/Coost 96	11.82
	BEST PERFORMING	,
RARS	DBIT (RUST/OLIC	CALE
1	Fleming Inc & Gth-Cap (2000)W	21,666 67
2	Jupiter Extra Inc Wts	9,625.00
2 3 4	Jeve - Cap (2004) Dartwoor Wts	5,956 35 5,882 35
5	Framilington Dual-Cap (1999)	4,627.48
	Mean/Count 1.	389.85/431
	WORST PERFORMIN	
428 429	Aberdeed New Bawn B Wis Edinburgh Java Wis	86 95 83 33
430	Pacific Assets Wts	73 03
131	Aberdeen New Dawn C Wts	21 25
432	Central European 6th Wis Mean/Count 1.3	9 63 387.96/432
	BEST PERFORMING	
	OVER FIVE YEARS	
1	Frankington Dual-Cap (1999)	7,232,70 4,794,14
3	Jove - Cap (2004) For & Col Enterprise	4.677 55
3 4 5	Fleming Inc & Gth-Cap (2000)W	3.823.53
5	Jos Holdings - Cap (2003)	3,409 09
	WORST PERFORMIN	
312 313	For & Cal Emerging Mkts Wis City of Datard Wis	107 14 83 33
314	Aberdeen Now Daws 8 Wis	74.07
315	Edioburgh Java Wts	39 47
316	Central European 6th Wis Mean/Count 1,4	6.50 157.57/316
	BEST PERFORMING	
	OVER TO LEARN	
RAZZ	UNIT LOUST/DEIC	CASE
1	For & Col Enterprise	10,666 77
3	Framington Bool-Cap (1999) Candover	9.094 89 6.455.62
4	Japiter Primadona Growth	6,436 39
5	Edinburgh US Tracker	5,670 93
140	WORST PERFORMIN	
110	Baillie Gifford Shin Nippoo For & Col Emerging Markets	983.70 875.06
112	Trust al Property Shares	83472
13	Korea-Europe Fund	384.76
114	MVESCO Enterprise	317.56
	Mean/Court 3,0	73.17/114
	Source: Standard & Po	ors/Micropa

· To	LODG.	
IK	USTS	F
158 33 158 33 1525 00 177,76 146 23 125 00	INVESCO JAPAN DISCOVERY WARRANTS SET SOFT THE GOT ONE YEAR 452 - GILLS BUILT BUILT	31 41 51
0.85 7 07 56 .82	25 AMJUAS GNO JENA - 5 (5)	1-1 1-1 1-1 1-1
566 67 25.00	CENTRAL FUROPEAN GROWTH WARRANTS Hard meetings that there are year	17
56 35 82 35 27 48 31	5 5) — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	\ <u>.</u>
95 33 03	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	ed vol rol
25	122 5	-
32	AMIJASOUDJENA "A	١.
52.70 94.14 77.55 23.53 09.09	FRAMILINGTON DUAL CAP (1999) Seat the south of the years 940	
32	3 450 240 T	
07 47	220	
16	120 0 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	
666 77 94 89	CENTRAL EUROPEAN CRONTH WARRANTS Worst investment trust over five years 150 - 50	
55. 6 2 36.39	130	1
70 93	3 110	1
.70	90 10 share 170 30 share 150 50 share 150 sh	
06	50	
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.56	10 class90 3	
14	-10 average 110 \$	1
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	BEST PERFO	OR	MING UNIT TRUSTS		
	0.72 leant	ul OC	mp sum, offer to bio basis		
1 AYY	DO LITED MALETERS! CY	AR 13 H	FIVE YEARS	CASB	BAKE
1	Fidelity last Fds UK Bond 1,143.	86	AberdeenProl Sterling Bond	1.678 77	1
2	Hill Samuel Bood ladex 1,143.	27	Oresdaer RCM Preference	1,660.73	
3	Barclays Kigh locome 1,127.	32	Headerson Preference & Bond	1,639.61	3
•	Legal & Gea Fixed lotorest 1,113.	90	CGU PPT Monthly locome Plus	1.637 73	4
5	Fidelity MoneyBuilder Inc 1,111.	64	M&G Corporate Bond	1.636.35	
72 _	WORST PERF		RMING UNIT TRUSTS Edinburgh UK Fixed let CI A	1.418.99	19
74	Edioburgh UK Fixed Int CI B 982.		Lloyds TSB Premier Income	1.391.46	20
5	Edinburgh UK Fixed Int CI A 976.	_	Govett Corporate Boad	1.385.30	21
76	Singer & Fried Pret Inc 975	_	INVESCO GIR & Fixed Interest	1,363.30	22
77	Sovereigo Controlled Perf 926.		Sovereign Controlled Perfrance		23
	Mean/Count 1.054781	_	Mean/Count	1.503 96 23	
PANE	OKE YE		Sum, mid-price to mid-price FIVE YEARS HIGH HADDIE HEYESTMENT TRASTS	EASH	Rami
	M&G High locome (GRO Ut): 185			2.413.41	1
7	Cairngorm BS Units 1,161.	_	Glasgow Incomo	1.924.0€	2
	Aberdeen High Income 1.138 !	27	Gartmore Scotland Pkge Unit	1 399.28	3
	Cairogorm Demutualisation 1,100	61	Shires Income	1,890.00	4
_	City Morchants High Yield 1.099 (07	M&G Income Geared Unit	1.878.91	5
			NG INVESTMENT TRU	STS	
+	Aberdeen Convertible locome989			1.837.07	6
5	M&G Income Geared Unit 941.9	_	Handerson High Income	1,650.92	7
5	Gartmore Scotland Pkge Unit 951		M&G Recovery Geared Unit	1,510.05	3
.	OLIM Convertible Units 900 -	_	Govett High Jocome	1,464 23	9
8	M&G Recovery Geared Unit 800. Mean/Count 1.041.94/1		Aberdeen Coovertible Income	1.171.91	10
	Mean/Count 1,641.94/1	18	Mean/Count	1,773.99/10	
			Source: Standard & Po	ors/Micro	opa

7/85	COUPDS (procs. %)	MIRINAN (E)	PRICE (pance)	TIELE (gross, %)
Birmingham	9%	1,000	148	6.33
Bradford	11 ⁵ 9	10 000	188	6.18
Bradford	13	10.000	210	ö.19
Britannia	1,3	1.000	201	6 47
Coventry	121/3	1,000	191	6.35
Leeds & Holbeck	13%	1,000	206!-	6.48
Newcastle	10? a	1,000	175	ਰ.14
Newcastle	12 ⁵ 3	1,000	207	6.10
Skipton	12.8	1.000	216	5.98
PEDPETOAL ENDODDINATED BOXDS	COUPOS (procs. %)	MIDIMON (E)	PRICE [pooco]	FFELD (grass, %)
Cheltenham and Gloucester	1130	50,000	186	
First Active	17%	10,000	161	7.30
Halifax	B ³ .4	50.000	1331/-	6.55
Halifax	12	50,000	173 ¹ a	6.92
Halitax	13%	50.000	211	6.46
Bristol and West	1336	1.000	<u>1</u> 96	6.82
Harthern Rock	125/4	1,000	198'4	6.36

en e		INSTANT	ACCESS BR	ANCH A	COLIN	ms		
Secretary Secretary Health		TELEPHORE	ACCIDITY	DETICE OR YERM	REPRET	*	A.	MITEREST
A section of and base & Proper	Tesco	0845 7104010		or Yerm Instant		4.50%	4.50%	Yly
10 per 13e tents	Woolnich	0800 222200	Card Saver	Instant	250	4 75%	4.75%	Yly
	Yorkshire BS	0845 6006061	Access Saver	Instant	2100	4.75%	4.75%	Yly
Tony Ling	Teacher's BS	01202 843550	Bellion	Instant	€500	4.30%	4.35%	1/ ₂ Yly
	POST	CAL /TELEP	HONE ACC	OUNTS	- NO	OTTO	CF	
	Egg	0845 6000292		Post/Phone	E I .	6.00%	6.00%	Yly
1	Virgla Direct	0845 6101020		Telephone	£l	5.75%	5.75%	Yly
1	Scottish Widows Bank	0845 8450829		Post/Phone	5100	5.80%	5.80%	Yly
	Northern Rock	0845 6006767	BaseRate Tracke	POST/Priorie	£5,000	6.00%	6.00%	Yly
		NOTICE	ACCOUNT	IS AND	BOND:	S		
· i	Yorkshire BS	0845 6006061		30 0ay	2100	5.80%	5.80%	
j	Searborough BS	01723 500616		40 Oay	£1'00g	5.95%	5.95% 5.90%	Yly
· • •	Scottish Widows Bank Manchester BS	0845 8450829 0161 8338898		60 Day (B) 120 Day	£100 £10,000	5.90%	6.05%	
	International Division of the Control of the Contro					0.00.0	4.00.4	
			HEQUE AC					
	See Bank	01438 744505 0181 4472040		None	25,000	4.25% 5.25%	4.25% 5.35%	Oly
	AMC Bank Leeds & Halbeck BS	0800 0728738	Albion Chaque	Instant	25,000	5.00%	5.00%	Yty
]	Investec Bank (UK)	0171 5974131		None	£5,000	4.75%	4.85%	Mly
			EXED RATE	PONDO				
<u> </u>	Hallen.	_		6 Month	\$2,000	5 75%F	5.83%	Yly
7	Halifax Worthern Rock	01422 333333		1.5.00	25,000		6.05%	Yly
)	Wodwich	0800 222200	Fixed Rate Bond	3 Year	£500	5.25%F	5.25%	Yly
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Frizzell Bank	0800373191	Fixed Rates	4 Year	£2,500	5.25%F	5.32%	Yly
			MINI CAS	H ISAS				
	Kationwide 8S	0500 302010	CAT Standard	Instant	£1	6.50%	6.50%	Yly
·	Yerkshire BS	0845 6006061	CAT Standard	7 Day	£10	6.25%	6.25%	Yly
1	Abbey National	0800 100801	CAT Standard	None	£3,000 £3,000	6.50%	6.75%	Yly
. 1	Norwick & P'here BS	0800 883322	Non CAT Standard	KISKIIK	23,000	0.73%	0.734	Try
incoln.			TESSAS ON	LY ISAS				
- 2011	Woolwich	0800 222200	CAT Standard	Instant	E1 000	6.00%	6.00%	Yly
1ncom	Abbey National	0800 100801 01422 333333	CAT Standard CAT Standard	7 Day	£1,000 £3,000	6.25%	6.25%	Yly
1777	Hatifax Coventry BS	0845 7665522			£500	6.50%	6.50%	Yly
-1	33,333,33			I IN PICE CO	noce)			
" - 11			ORE ACCO		KO55)		5.50%	Yly
	Pertman Changel Islands Irish Nationwide (10M)		International las	None	005 000	6.00%	6.00%	Yly
	Hortbern Rock Guernsey	01481 714600	Offshore 90	90 Day	£25,000	6.25%	6.25%	Yly
	Irish Hatioowide (10M)	01624 673373	International 90	90 Day	£50,000	6.65%	6.65%	Yiy
		CHADANT	EED INCO	ME BON	DS (NI	773		
	GE Financial Assurance	0181 3803388	EED INCO	1 Year	210,000	4.20%F	N	Yiy
	GE Financial Assurance	0181 3803388		2 Year	210,000	4.10%R	N	Yly
	Countrywide Assured	0800 838020		3 Year	£10,000			Yly
	Countrywide Assured	0800 838020		4 Year	£10,000	4.40%F	N	Yiy
	M	ATIONAL	SAVINGS A	CCOLIN	TS (GR	OSS		
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS		ORT II TOO A	1 Month	£20	3.65%		Yly
	WITH SHEET WOODS IN				£500	3.80%		Yly
					£2,500	3.90%		Yiy
14 Table 1					£5,000	4.00%		Yly
					210,000			Yly
Tank .					£50,000			Yly Yly
E 1	WOOLE DOUG			3 Month	£30,000 £2,000	4.95%		Miy
(1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)	INCOME BORDS			J monigi	£25,000			Mly
	CASH ISA			instant	£10	5.75%		Yiy
	CAPITAL BORDS Series P			5 Year	£100	4.65%F		OM
	FIRST OPTION BONDS			12 Month	21,000	4.65%F		Yly
100				F 14-	\$20,000			Yly
	PENSIONERS GUARANTEE	D INCOME BOND	Series 9	5 Year	£500 C100	4.65%F		OM
	50th ISSUE (tax free)			5 Year 5 Year	£100 £100	3.50%F		OM
				.1 15531	A 100		1	Vill
40.000	15TH INDEX-LINKED (tax	frøe)		J 142	£25	inflation		OM

			MII MAGUET	
CHILDREN'S BOND Issue N (tax free)	5 Year	£25	4.65%F	OM
AER = Annual Equivalent Rate. B=Operated by post an OM = Interest paid on maturity. P=Operated by post. To Please check all rates and terms before investing. All rates compiled on: 12 April 1999	Operated by telephone.	All raics sub	giet to change wi dis) are shown gr	thout notice.

MEN		WOMEN	
SE 36		466 38	
Guardiao	12 00	Pegasus	12.07
Permauc wt	12.77	Legal & General	13 60
egases	12 92	Scottish Provident	13 85
ट्युटो दे हिस्तरायो	13.00	Permanent	14 21
FEE 33		ARE 33	
Swiss Lite	16 19	Legal & General	17 00
Svardian	17 70	Scottish Provident	17 17
Permanent	18 20	Swiss Life	17 78
Legal & General	18 50	Canada Life	17.80
LEE 40 Swiss Life	25 72	Scottish Provident	23.20
Permanent	27 16	Pegasus	23.52
esai & Geoeral	27.40	Legal & General	24 50
Scottish Provident	27.59	Canada Life	24 80
6E 43		45E 45	
Scottish Provident	40 16	Scottish Provident	31 35
Swiss Life	40.49	Zurich Lite	31.57
Canada Life	43.40	Canada Life	34 40
Guardian	41.45	BUPA	.38 58
Scottish Provident	58.98	Zerick Life	43 99
Canada Life	61.80	Scottish Provident	46.35
Swiss Lite	62 11	Cagada Life	46.20
CGU Life	75 90	CGU Lite	58 25

COMPULSO	RY PURC	HASE AN	NUIŢIE
£100,000 purchas	se, guaranteed to	re years monuty	n advance
	LEVI	EL.	
	SINGIT	UTT	
4.0	MALE GD	MALE 65	MALE TO
Canada Lite	7 834	8.834	10 194
Legal & General	7.679	9,773	10.162
Friends Provident	7,670	8.756	10,230
	FEMALE OD	FEMALE 85	FEMALE 70
Casada Life	7,319	8.133	9.304
Friends Provident	6,918	7,720	278.3
Equitable Life	6.968	7 676	8.623
10 IN 1 1.1	11 2 3 8 0	WIN'S REN	FFII
	MALE SO FEMALE SS	MALE \$5 Finale &D	MALE 70 PEMALE 05
Canada Lite	6.820	7.430	8 279
Stalwart	6.558	7 375	8 134
Equitable Life	b.605	7.170	7.954
	NDEX-LI Sirent	IILF	
	MTIE 60	MALE 05	MALE CO
Prodential	5.769	6 759	8,067
Sue Life	5.554	6718	8,305
Standard Life	5.520	6.635	8,100
	FEMALE SO	FEMALE 65	TEMALE 70
Predential	5,092	5.788	6,859
Equitable Life	4.933	5 673	6.697
Canada Life	4 723	5.571_	6,765
JORTH	FE. 2.3 WII	SOW S BEN	ווזו
	MARE SO FEMALE SS	PEMALE SO	MALE TO FEWALE 65
Prodeutial	4,687	5.272	6,039
Equitable Life	4,554	5,149	5 955
Sum Life	4.170	4.944	5,897
	Se	ource: Ann	uity Direc

	CORPO	ORAT	E B	ONDS	
COMPART	FUIR	IANGE!	RISE	FIE CHARGE	AS DOM
Perpetual	Mithly Inc	850	LM	3.15	1.25
Aberdeen	Food ko	820	HА	4.5	1.35
FramEngton	European	003	ΓM	375	1 (10
M&6	High Yield	9.53	LM	1)[1	7 25
Schroders	High Yield	7 00	L	3 25	1.00
Jupiter	Corp Bond	b.bU	MA	5 00	100
Legal & Gen	Corp Bone	625	L	140	0.50
Save & Pres	High lin	I-16	1	224	075
Fidelity	Moneythkis	617	i	M	0.70
Virgin Direct	Inc Trust	£ 00	L	M	070
MAM	High Yield	P13	L-M	2 35	11/0
Goinns Flight	Value Bond	4.97	ī	No	Übb

	TELEPBOKE	RATE	PE8100	MAX	PEE	INCERLIAE	REBEMPTICA PENALTY
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.39%	2 years	90%	£95	Refund of valuation tee. No MIP	1st 2yrs. 4/3 months merest
Lambeth Simply Postal	0645 909192	4.94%	1,4.02	95%	\$295	Holiday Youcher min \$100	To 1.4 02:5% of advance
Portman BS	01202 563502	5.49%	01.5.04	95%	£300	Advances up to 90% no MIP	To 1.5.04 4 months interest
NatWest Mtg Serv	D6D0 40D999	5.69%	31.5.06	95%	£295	TO 90%,no MIP FT8 fee £145	To 31 5.0cc variable
FIXE	D RATES	_ WI	TH EN	TEN	IDED	REDEMPTION	TIE-IN
Stattordshire BS	0800 216121		01.5.01		£295	-	To 1.5 04:5% olsum repaid
arabeth BS	0300 225221	3.99%	01.5.02	95%	£295	Holidayyoucher -mm £100	Est 5 years 5% ofantance
Carborough BS	0990 133149	4,30%	3 years	95%	£295	-	1st 5 years, 5% of sum repaid
forthern Rock	0843 6050500	5.29%	01.7.04	90%	2395	Free ASU for 6 months & advs upto 90% No MP	1st i yrz 3-5% ol sum repaid
			CAP	PED	RAT	ES	
ambeth Simply	06-5 509191	1.49%	1.6.01	95%	\$295	Huirtay voucher, mer £100-	Ist 5 yrs 5% of advance
Bristol & West	0800 119955	4.79%	01.6.01	95%	£295	Advances up to 85% No MIP	to 31 3 D4 4.5% of sum repaid
Hinkley & Rugby BS	0800 774499	1.89%	3 years	80%	\$2505	Free ASU to: 6 months & activs to 90 % No MIP	up 1st 5 yrs. 3% of SR
Scarborough BS	0390 133149	5.65%	4 years	95%	2295		nsi 4 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
FI	RST-TIME	BUY	ERS (VAR	LABL	E UNLESS SHO	WN)
Yeelwich	0345 454546	3.99%	1 year	95%	£100	2.5% advances rebated & up to 90% no MIP	1st 5 yes birdes interest and rebate reclaimed
Toyal Bk Scotland	0800 121121	4.55%R	1.6.02	90%	•	Free ASU for 3 miles, no MIP	to 1 6 02: 7% of a s batance
Wance & L'ster	0845 3033000	5.30%	5 years	95%	£195	Advances up to 90%, no MIP	1st 6 years: 9 months interest

BEST BORROWERS RATES

	VAKU	TRITI	נע צ	3CU	UNI	ED R	λlt	25	
Scarborough BS	0990 133149		1 year		250 .			151 5yrs: 5-3% ol	Sum repar
Wastwich	0345 454546	3.59%R	01.5.0			ces up to 90% n	a MP	To J 5 03: 6 most	पेट आस्टरडा
West Bromwich BS	0121 5806404	4 4.45%	3 years	B5% S		rebate, tree MIP or 1 year	& tree	151 5 yrs. 5% of 9	aum repaid
Halifax	0900 203049	5 50%	31.7.04	4 90% -	No Mil & lega		valuation	to 31.7.06/3-1% (of advance
	UNSE	CUR	ED	PERS	SONA	AL LC	AN	IS	
	APD			THERT OF £2,					
Northern Rock	0345 421421			With Insuran			SUrance		
Tesco	08-75 6006010			With Insuran			SURANÇI		
Phone A Lean (foreshire Bank)	0600 1586898	3 11.9%		With Insuran	ce 183,40	NO in	Surance	£164 61	
		(OVE	ERDR	AFTS	;			
		ACCO	RET	ANTHORN	SER APR		RRA	OTRORISEO API	
Alliance & Leiceste	0500 959	595 Allia	псе	0.95%	12.00	%	2.20	0% 29	80
Nationwide BS	0500 302	010 Flex	account	0.97%	12.20		210	0% 28	3%
Abbey National	0800 731					13.40% 2.20% 29.			99.
	00000		(CARE	S		4- <u>=</u> 1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	1ELEP		ST.	CARE)S RD				W/R
Descripts Comb Cons	1814	PD 91	S' CARD	CARE	S RD	APR	FEE	MTEREST FREE PERIOD	W/R
People's Bank Conc	1ELEP Deticut 0500	551055	ST CARD TYPE Mast	CARE	RD RATE PH 0.56%	4°P 6.90%	FEE PA NI	INTEREST FREE PERIOR 56 days	W/R
RBS Advanta	161ep 98ticut 0500 0800	551055 077770	ST CARD TYPE Mast Visa	CARE	O.56%	APR 6.90% 6.90%	FEE Nii Nii	INTEREST FREE PERIOD 56 days 56 days	
	161ep 98ticut 0500 0800	551055	ST CARD TYPE Mast	CARE	RD RATE PH 0.56%	4°P 6.90%	FEE PA NI	INTEREST FREE PERIOR 56 days	W/R
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It's a bonus to put one over on galleryland

I'M IN Cork Street with Sash. Her count. Let me make one thing mother met my mother at ante- clear; it's not what you'd call a fornatal classes, in case you don't tune, in fact, compared with the remember, and we've been foisted on each other ever since.

It's a slightly uneasy friendship: she took the art-school route, and now hangs out with a lot of underemployed jewellery-makers and started this job in November. the like, laughing al saddos with proper jobs and living off their trust funds - and I have a proper is definitely my girl.

finally winged its way into my ac- move jobs less often.

amount of other people's money ! bosh around on a daily basis it's jump ship. peanuts. Apart from anything else, the bonus-earning year runs from January to December - and I only

You may be wondering why, if the "b-e" year runs from Jan to Dec, the "b" itself is only now arriving at its job. But the thing is, I want to destination. To be honest, I'm not buy a painting, and Sash, I figure, entirely sure. I think it may be something to do with the new tax The reason I have money to burn year and all that, but it may be just at the moment is that my bonus has a cunning way of making people

After all, if you don't receive last year's handout until you've already accrued a third of this year's, the reasoning goes, you're less likely to

It isn't every City institution that delays the payout like this, as far as I'm aware. You'd have had to be blind not to notice the number of new toys that everyone seemed to have in January, and not Christmas presents either. Problem is, it's hard to get accurate information about the whole bonus business. As everyone knows, size matters - so

In my case, the size is definitely small, but large enough to buy



The problem is that Sash wants me to buy Art and I just want to buy a painting

something to jolly up the flat. a recording of policemen breath-There's only so much furniture you testing drivers and called Speed; can have, and antiques are too we've gone to Stoke Newington to fusty somehow. But something to hang on the wall - well, that's a dif- scrunched-up condom wrappers ferent proposition, and it's the one that's brought Sash and me to the centre of galleryland, the hip and happening centre of London's hip and happening art scene.

to plan. The problem is that Sash wants me to buy Art and I just want to huy a painting. Sash bas dragged me all over the capital: we've been to Whitechapel to see a box brownie surrounded by red. amber and green lights flashing to

see a room covered entirely with called Too Mony ---- we've stood next to a slide projector while it clicked through views of a car moving further and further along a city road. And now we're looking at a Only things aren't really going canvas that's completely black apart from a small red triangle in

> is raving about it. "It's the dramatic tension, the integrity: the sense of space," she guffs, or that's what it sounds like since I'm too busy thinking about

the bottom left corner - and Sash

naked emperors to listen properly. Anyway, you can imagine Sasb's delight when she walks into my flat a week later and there, hanging on the wall, is a canvas that's completely black apart from a small red triangle in the bottom left corner. She squeals and starts on about the dramatic tension and the sense of space and the integrity and bow the artist is a real young hotshot and his work will be worth even more

So I have to tell her. "The thing is, Sash," I say. "I painted it myself. It looks a lot like it, doesn't it." Only, for some reason, I don't suppose it's worth as much....

The flexible way to benefit employees

CHOICE IS the new buzzword. Increasingly, organisations are reporting that employees want more 35 per cent say explaining the choice - choice over how they work and how they are remunerated.

The main area in which compaaies are delivering choice to staff is in benefits. This is, in part, driven by the need to rethink the way benefits are offered and still allow companies to remain competitive, while keeping a tight control on costs.

We are also beginning to see more companies offering choice over other aspects of work. The motivation is clear. Providing your employees with that choice and bow they are remunerated gives a good pression to the marketplace - proessive, leading edge, responsive. But how practical is it and what can be done to help with the manage-ment of such flexible initiatives?

At Arthur Andersen we conducted a survey of companies' attitudes towards flexible benefit schemes. Sixty per cent of companies operating flexible benefit schemes find

BY CAROL WOODLEY

scheme to employees is difficult. On closer inspection, the survey shows companies introducing flex-

ible benefits spend relatively little on administration systems, use systems that carry out only core functions, and run their "flex" systems rather autonomously. Communication with employees sticks mainly to memos. e-mails and presentations.

We feel the tremendous adused to help the management of flexible benefit schemes - cutting paper flows, integrating with human resources, payroll, ac-counting and other internal systems, and enabling easier communication with those outside the company involved in providing benefits.

Systems can be adapted to allow employees to see projections of dif-ferent remuneration packages. would affect pay. The effective use

the management of other initiatives, such as flexible working. But companies do not seem to be taking advantage of these possibilities, and the reason seems to be, simply,

In our survey, more than 60 per cent of companies considering introducing flexible benefits expect administration to be complex and costly, and more than 20 per cent expect communication to be difficult. But these firms do not expect to spend much on systems and techvances in technology should be nology - a few thousand pounds to purchase, set up, install, test and run a system to administer their multi-

> million-pound benefit programmes. One cannot imagine such small investments being made on other systems, such as payroll. The result will be companies using systems that are inflexible, non user-friendly and liable soon to be obsolete.

e for the system from the very Choice! It is designed to belp com- benefits schemes that administration is complex, and of technology could also help with panies communicate the choices for



Many firms are already delivering choice to staff, giving them flexible rewards packages that offer benefits such as dental insurance

Franchises

standable way and belp administer and manage the choices.

The system enables companies to We have developed a flexible re- communicate and administer beneward management tool, taking the fits plans effectively and efficiently showing how the flexibility on offer thing it is aimed at managing - running either traditional or flexible

At Arthur Andersen we have in-

employees in a clear and under- troduced our own system, Alpha. This is a traditional flexible benefits scheme giving employees a com-

and administration system.

to administer much more farreaching concepts such as Flexible bined remuneration and benefits Reward, where employees can most companies at the momeot. But budget, to cover benefits including choose how their entire package is we have the technology to implement medical and dental insurance, retail delivered, and the Flexible Working such a concept. care financial planning and tax return preparation. We also use Choice! as our main information ing hours, husiness travel and

Ultimately, Choice! could be used equipment. The extension of flexible rewards to cover the entire working environment is probably beyond

given choice over aspects such as The author is a partner in their office accommodation, work- Arthur Andersen's human capital services division

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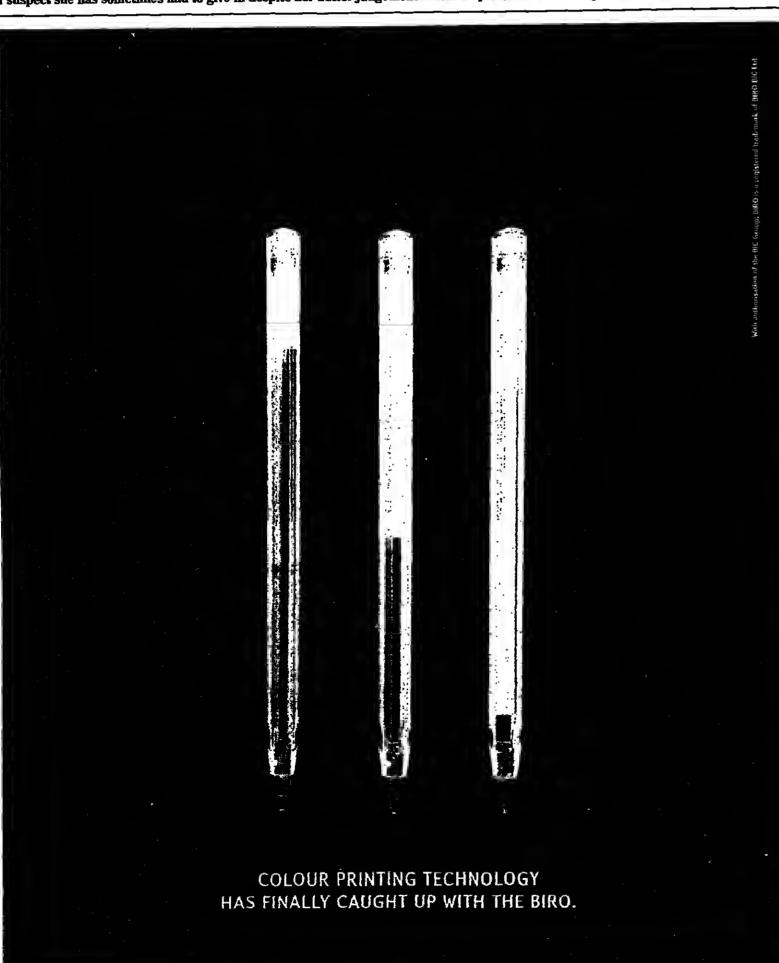
ME AND MY PARTNER

JOHN SMYTHE AND COLETTE DORWARD

Ten years ago John Smythe and Colette Dorward set up Smythe Dorward Lambert. They have worked with 37 of the 50 top FTSE100 firms as behavioural change management consultants. In 1996 they sold out to Omnicom: in 1998, turnover was £7.5m



'I suspect she has sometimes had to give in despite her better judgement': John Smythe, founder of Smythe Dorward Lambert, with his 'concrete barrier of calmness' and vice-chairman, Colette Dorward __Kalpesh Lathign



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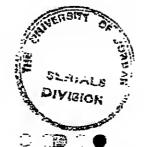


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> HEWLETT **Expanding Possibilities**



OHN SMYTHE: I had been working for a maverick American billionaire as his European Mr Fix-It for six years. I'd worked for big American companies. and read early stuff about culture, and decided there was a good niche called "internal communication". There were lots of PR and advertising comnanies, but 15 years ago there was nobody doing that.

I hawked my idea-around, but back then, it was: "Don't be daft - run along, boy." Now everyone is clambering on the bandwagon. I didu't know anything about consultancies, and Wolff Olins was the only one I talked to. Wally Olins became like a father figure. He was a supporting, encouraging, big kind of guy, and unusually in Britain then, he was very "cando" and aggressive.

I had the view that a man with a vision can go a long way. That's when Colette appeared. She was at a meeting where I was talking about internal communication. She phoned and said: "I want to come and work with you." I was pleased and flattered she wanted to join.

Colette was just a slip of a girl: young and inexperienced. but very determined, and very principled. She felt that here was a cause that she could join and very actively support. bave been married three times, but I have known Colette for probably longer than anyone else. Often, I feel what she's thinking without a word being uttered. Paradoxically, she's one of the most enigmatic people, and I often feel I don't know her at all. She quickly became the sec-

ond driving force, though we were completely different characters. I was the visionary who had the big idea, and not a great completer-finisher - I would set the stage and sell remorselessly - and Colette put humanity into the place and made it attractive for people to come and work there. Her role was to build the business behind the At the time, the market was

dominated by the big advertising agencies and external communication providers. It was viewed as message delivery: image management. We said it was reputation that matters, not image. You have to look at the ethics of the business; you need a spiritual approach. If you have a strong vision and good set of values, profit will follow.

Every CEO talks about the importance of people, but what are they actually doing about hiring and firing them? What is the nature of the cultural contract? What will motivate them? We created a debate with clients about good communication, to see that people are part of the decision-making process. It's not a woolly agenda, or driven by wimpy thought. It's about the bard content of the contract between employer and employee.

In that five years, we started to create a philosophy and a new employment opportunity, and we created a business which had a £3m turnover. Then we fell out with Wolff Olins. They were a fantastic

sponsor but they wanted to merge our subsidiary. We were guerrillas - we had created our own identity. We had a very uneasy six months, then we took off. We left on the Friday and on Monday we camped in the offices of Collett Dickinson Pearce across the road. They were marvellous. They said: We'll lend you money and get There were months when we

weren't drawing salaries. It was touch and go, but we were absolutely committed. I learnt during that period that Colette is very hard-working. She is reserved and quite difficult to talk to-and clear about ber boundaries - yet she was utterly reliable. She has a great sense of calm, a concrete barrier of calmness. She also has a very occasional wild temper Ten years on, we have 80

people working for SDL, and we have a very able second generation gradually taking over our management. You have to be willing to let go of power, but it's like a bereavement. You have to find a new role. Not having to be client-focused does mean you can be more creative and more daring.

Three years ago, we decided that the first vision - to establish an internal communication niche - had been achieved. Our vision at the mo-

'I had the big idea and Colette put humanity into the place and made it attractive for people to come and work there'

ment is about taking SDL into the behavioural and psychological arena.

The next vision is about challenging the current change industry. It's an intellectual hegemony, the "ghastly triangle" between the consultancy, the client base and the academie world

I would say Colette values the fact that I brook no opposition. I suspect she has sometimes had to give in despite her better judgement, but it's not about having the upper hand. It's more about compatibility of intention, with two different ways of getting things done.

OLETTE DORWARD: I had heard John speak and thought he had something new to say. I knew of Wolff Olins and thought they were an amazing company. When I heard John was setting up there, I thought it was a really explosive combination. I had been pottering round looking for something to ignite: I was in financial and corporate public relations, which taught me to think on my feet and get into places quickly and try to find what's going on. I rang John and said: "Give us a job." He said: "Come round for

At Wolff Olins, there was a tremendous feeling of creativity and passion, and John was

saying: "Treally think there's a gap in the market." There was no job specification for me. I didn't even have a desk. John struck me as someone who was driven, energetic and interested; that's very attractive to someone who was trying to find a direction and looking for leadership, I didn't feel I could get on with him at first because he was so different to me. We have been together for 15 years, and I have grown up. It's been a voyage of discovery, doing fe

male things in a man's world. John creates opportunities for people. He doesn't nurture you through these, but be is an incredibly generous and openspirited person who wants other people to get on and do their best. That hit the spot for me, because I took it up.

There's a great deal befor other people to break into. There is that male-female thing, which is unusual in business. It's only been establishing a bigger company - with more senior players who really are bringing things to the table - that has forced that relationship apart. It would have suffocated: this has allowed. both of us to grow as individu-

We were both driven by an idea and an interest in how to make people look at the heart of a business matter. Our apparent allegiance was to a world of design and the way an organisation represents itself

through image. Leaving Wolff Olins was a natural point at which to break. I made the choice to stick with John, someone I trust and felt a complete identity with in terms of value and in what we, wanted to try to build.

Now most big organisations have somebody who is formally responsible for internal communications. That has been a major shift and we were part of that movement. The fabric of working life is changing, and people want different things from their employment experience. They are liberated to think and be creative.

We have made a clearer dis tinction between management and leadership in our own bush ness and have created opportunities for senior people. It's difficult transition for John and I, and for any entrepreneurial person, to know when to step; back. It's more difficult for me because my instinct is mater nal. it's my baby, and I don't like delegating motherhood to somebody else. I have had learn that I'm of more value in the business if I let people much more experienced than me get involved in decision making and management process. What matters is keep the heart alive.

John and I touch base on t things that really matter, but that's not to say we spend a l of time together I think Lam h alter ego, and during our work ing life I have felt a sense reinvention of self. I have h the opportunity to do that several points, and there's freshness because we have

got stuck in a groove. INTERVIEWS BY RACHELLE THACKRA

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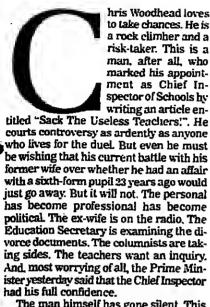
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THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 14 April 1899

VEDNESDAY REVIEN

COMMENT • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY FEATURES •



The man himself has gone silent. This is uncharacteristic. He is, his office said, on holiday. Really? But the Easter hreak was last week, There was a pour Besides, flurry. Yes, definitely on holiday. Besides, the had to say. His was last week. There was a pause and a flurry. Yes, denotery on market Them. flurry. Yes, denotery on market Them. he had said everything he had to say. His he had said everything he had to say. His he had said everything he had said everything he had so have a ded g former wife is not on holiday. Nor has she had her full say. Yesterday, for instance, had her full say. Yesterday, for instance, "He had ner run say, restriction, to she was on the Today programme. "He brought it brought this up," she said. "He brought it orongon this up, and at the beginning of into the public domain at the beginning of February, It was all over the papers. I haven't brought it up. I'm just trying to get at the truth," said Cathy Woodhead. She believes Tony Blair should be looking at the truth, too. "I'm afraid that anyone who alteen together for life lows lies to carry on cannot be trusted." Some see this as the work of a woman

colliscovery domes a perned. They say that Cathy Woodhead. an erestes opported muscular version of Margaret Cook. In the He doesn't me end, Margaret didn't get her man and why the second cathy? But such a comparison enerous and or doesn't hold up, at least in terms of timrerson the rating. If Ms Woodhead is seeking revenge, the second to get un mint has been served not only cold but ab-That hit the spat solutely frozen. And she hasn't written a book, cried her crocodile tears or hazzl Trees a great deal over the serialisation, though her articles which sicianis in the Mail on Sunday have been deadly. resple to brest Now, she says, she only wants the truth. incr is unusualist truth is one of the most important things the stay been still we have," she says.

Of course, the Chief Inspector insists that he is telling the truth and that his affair with Amanda Johnston began when she was no longer his pupil at Gordano School near Bristol. After all, the allegations are hardly new. The News of the World planned to publish them in 1995 and was told by his solicitor that they had their dates wrong. His former wife said that she kept quiet because their dates the there community quiet because their daughter Tammy the time in interest we would suffer first. Now divorce documents would amount a would amount o service took at we would appear to support the former wife's point of view. Last Sunday, The Observer quoted a solicitor's note from 1976 that said podhead "particularly did not want her knime to be disclosed, because she was a sixth-former when the adultery started and it was understood the teaching profession ्रा व वाक्ष्मक were [sic] averse to teachers committing adultery with sixth-form pupils". In February 1977, Mr Woodhead signed a statement saying he wanted to keep her name

and "secret for "professional reasons". So what are we to think? Should Chris Woodhead resign from his £115,000 a year oh? Should there be an inquiry? If so, should Mr Woodhead be treated as any Tral lakeacher would and be suspended while it and what is his real problem: the The liffair, the lie, or both? Does it matter that har new legislation debated yesterday in differed artiament would mean that teachers who have relationships with sixth-form



BY ANN TRENEMAN

is the kind of thing that is only believable because it is fact. No novelist would dare to think it. The columnists are delighted. The fam-

ily feud is now a matter for public debate and opinions are whizzing like paper aeroplanes in an untended classroom. David Aaronovitch says it is a professional not a private matter, for the man whose zeal for school standards is matched by his helmet-like haircut. Libby Purves has called for an inquiry. Melanie Phillips, the scourge of single mothers, has jumped to bis defence. And John Clare of The Daily Telegraph yesterday wrote these words: "So - still supposing Mr Woodhead lied - would that be a sufficient reason for him to be hounded from office? Setting the triviality of the lie against the weight of his achievements would suggest not. It is not fanciful to argue that the life chances of tens of thousands of children have been improved by his actions." Try explaining that logic to a child who asks if lying is wrong.

relative adults, we have a responsibility to those who are younger than us and therefore it isn't a good idea at all, but I don't think necessarily that a teacher should he automatically drummed out of the profession. I think human beings can get themselves into messes and I think those messes can be experiential and educative

on both sides." It was just one of several questions and answers and Mr Woodhead must have thought bittle of it. The man who loves risks and is often described as arrogant probahly thought there was none. He has since hinted darkly that it may have been a conspiracy, but even he should have noticed that there were 200-odd people in the room. And he certainly must have known that the session was heing taped, both officially as

response was equivocal: "As adults, or part of the course and unofficially hy several students. One of the tapes was put in the library. In a matter of weeks. The independent had the story. When called for his comments, he immediately realised the situation hut still came out fighting. He said he believed the questioner had been trouhled, though in such a large gathering that seems very intuitive indeed. He added: "In most circumstances. I think a teacher who has a relationship with a pupil should be barred from the orofession." He said his remarks had to be seen in context. "I don't think it is the joh of the chief inspector to pontificate about these things."

If only he had followed his own advice. It wasn't long before others remembered the News of the World story. His former wife heard the news while in a climbers' but in Snowdonia. "I was with a group of friends

Chris Woodhead's many enemies will have read that with more than a little joy in their hearts. This will include many

from the Pinnacle Club, the national spector, who many blame for making their women's rock climbing club," she would lives a misery, taunting them in headline write later. She had spent the day on "an after headline, was finally being inspectinvigorating ridge walk, battling through ed himself. His friends are far less plentiful, but with names like Prince Charles and a gale which at times threatened to knock us to the ground". A friend, however, had Tony Blair you don't need a lot. Until now heen listening to the radio. they have backed him against what "At first I couldn't believe what I was Education Secretary David Blunkett has

Department of Education is using fewer simply incensed. For more than 20 years, I have lived with the knowledge that Chris such adjectives. Mr Blunkett is now had a sexual relationship with a pupil where inspecting the divorce documents. It is all starting to have an inevitable he taught. I learned that for certain in April 1976, when he told me he was having an momentum to it. But, as in so many cases affair with a girl named Amanda Johnof public morality and privacy recently, the ston... We had been married for six years problem is oot so much the actual event and our daughter Tammy was 11 months as the cover-up. A lie is still a sackable old." Before she had kept quiet. This time offence, despite the views of The Daily Teleshe didn't. "Yes. I thought, while you were graph. "The issue is about a lie," says Alice away being educative and experiential with Mahon, the Labour MP who has put down someone else. I was looking after our baby daughter." She decided to "set the record an Early Day Motion and called for him to resign. "This has nothing to do with his straight" and, in pure ex-wife mode oow. private life." added: While we were married I allowed And so the time is nearing when it is myself to be undermined by Chris. I gave time to quit bluffing. It is no longer a game, him sole responsibility for my happiness even for those who love and understand Twenty-three years on, I realise he is still exerting control over me and I am no longer prepared to be manipulated by him, I feel I have protected him long enough."

danger. "If, at the bottom of a rock climb, you worry about a difficult move at 50ft or 100ft, you are never going to get off the ground." Mr Woodhead has said. "Psychologically, you have got to take it stage by stage. Also, you have got to held your nerve, and this is applicable to the kind of teachers and academics. The Chief Inwork I do." And that, certainly, is true.

Cathy Woodhead is wrong about one thing, however. Mr Woodhead did not bring this into the public domain. Or at least that was never his intention when he responded to a question from a student teacher at the University of Exeter in January. It was at this forum, with no journalist in sight, that Mr Woodhead was asked if teachers who had relationships with pupils proupils will face up to two years in jail? It had any place in the education system. His

eaders and comment

L to R: Cathy Woodhead, Chris Woodhead, Amanda Johnston

11 Theatre Secretarial 12 Listings

Radio Satellite TV Todav's TV

hearing." Ms Woodhead said. "Then I was

called "vile" allegations. But now the

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RICHELL But i BJ.A

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Sir: With childre slowly roasted to death on trains, to only result of the bombing is tradd a third party (Nato) to those already committing atrocities in a brutal civil war between the Serbian government and KLA terrorists. Nato's apologies seem to be exact quotes from the words of the IRA, who should sue for copyright.

When a province is fought over, there are large civilian casualties and, ironically, the Serbs may have saved lives by expelling Kosovars if Nato sends in ground troops.

Serbia can "withdraw" its troops by telling them to take off their uniforms. Then, as experience in Northern Ireland has shown, infantry would be unable to protect the civilian population. The Kosovars would be crazy to return under ineffective Nato "protection". The only solution is a Russian

protectorate with no Nato participation whatsoever. DEREK J COLE. St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

Sir: Nato has apologised for killing and maiming civilians on a train during the attack on a railway bridge near Leskovac. They were also quick to add that a vital military supply line was targeted, and have destroyed fuel storage and depots and power plants throughout Yugoslavia.

How does one distinguish military from civilian targets in a modern society? Mr Milosevic's ability to make war his certainly been diminished by the bombing, but the population of Yugoslavia will have no fuel for agricultural machines to farm the land this spring, leaving them with no crops to eat this autumn. They will be left with no fuel and power plants to provide heating in the severe Balkan winter.

The Albanians in Kosovo should enjoy human rights and autonomy, but the only way to achieve that is through political talks unhampered by the armed rebellion of the Albanians or ultimatums from the West to the Serbs.

Dr NENAD SARAPA

Northolt, Middleser

Sir. The Government's unwillingness to commit ground troops to Kosovo is not, as suggested by Mr Kirkham and Dr Palmier (letters, 12 April), due to cowardice or silly technical problems. Rather, it is because Kosovo is unfamiliar terrain for the Nato troops, while the Serbians they face have, in many cases, lived there since childhood.

Nato troops would have to fight into hostile territory, victims of sniper fire and guerrilla warfare, against an army who have an awful lot more to lose than Nato do – the land they believe is rightfully theirs.

RACHEL MANTELL

Sir: After more than two weeks of bombings against fixed targets in both Serbia and Kosovo the weight of attacks should now be aimed overwhelmingly at tanks and infantry formations in Kosovo. Attacking barracks, telephone exchanges and bridges in Serbia, with the risk of major loss of civilian life, is not sensible at this stage.

The fact that only one Nato plane has been shot down while there have been several thousand missions suggests that few of the attacks have been barried out at a very close range for aggressive tactics are probably needed for the air-only policy to succeed. SIMON KNAPP Uckfield, East Sussex

Sir: Michael Laird detter, 10 April) advocates the arming and training of the KLA and reminds us that "the defeat of the Bosnian Serbs was brought about by local forces, mainly Croatian".

The KLA is no doubt evolving into a more formidable and disciplined organisation which could take control of much of Kosovo providing Serb heavy weaponry was neutralised. But it is not an army. The Croat forces to which Mr Laird refers were a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Billingsgate No 3: fish for sale to fishmongers and the general public is kept fresh in boxes of ice

Kalpesh Lathigra

disciplined, well motivated army with heavy artillery and armour which fought a hrilliant six-day campaign to retake the occupied lands of the Krajina and with the Muslim forces effectively gave the Serbs the choice of negotiating (Dayton) or facing total defeat. GRAHAM PERKINS Bromyard, Herefordshire

Sir: Less than four months ago the US State Department had this to say about the KLA:

"The KLA harass or kidnap anyone who comes to the police ... KLA representatives had threatened to kill villagers and hurn their homes if they did not join the KLA ... The KLA harassment has reached such intensity that residents of six villages in the Stimje region are 'ready to flee'." (Compiled from daily reports of the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer

Mission, 21 December 1998.)

That was when fighting was at a lull. Since the bombing the KLA has launched an all-out offensive. Is it any wonder that between saturation bombing of Kosovo and attacks by the terrorist KLA over a third of all ethnic groups in Kosovo (Albanians, Serbs, Turks and gypsies) have fled the area, going into Macedonia.

Albania and north to Serbia itself?

Far from being an impartial defender of human rights the Western powers are complicit in all the atrocities committed in Yugoslavia over the last eight years, having sponsored armed separatists against Belgrade from the start of these civil wars. ROBERT CLAYTON Higher Foxdale, Isle of Man

Sir: A foreign policy with "an ethical dimension" should by now have produced a recognisable stance over Turkey and East Timor, not to mention Burma. Instead, we have this intervention in the Balkans in which the objective is anything but clear, the strategy non-existent and the tactics little more than letting the military test their weapons. And I take nothing away from the service personnel who are obliged to implement this folly.

Nothing has been said about the financial costs. The future, for this government is a strange land full only of promises. When will this adventure cause the government to renege on yet another manifesto pledge? How distant now are freedom of information, reduced waiting lists (the real figures, not the fudged ones), a proper transport White Paper with sensible investment in rail, water

and road infrastructure?
Not least, what plans and funds are in place to rebuild Yugoslavia, or do Blair and Clinton believe that these troubled people deserve to be consigned to a pre-industrial wastebin?
COLIN STANDFIELD London W7

Sir: Living in the United States, there seems to me an odd contradiction. Many people championing the use of military force for "humanitarian" reasons are the same people ardently opposes to the basic needs of our now poorest citizens.

own poorest citizens.

Granted, there is no parallel to genocide, and the problems faced

Sir: It is always frustrating to

see the supermarkets claim that

they are "creating" jobs ("Tesco plans 10,000 jobs" 12 April). Jobs

are not created - they are moved

around and lost altogether.

Every time a new store opens

there is a net loss of jobs in the

surrounding area within three

years. Other smaller businesses

selling food and other products

such as pharmaceuticals, petrol

and even newspapers cannot

Sustain, the Alliance for Better

Sir: I'm not snre whether it's in

my best interest to deny it, hut

for the record I never worked

compete with a giant retail

outlet nearby.

Policy Director

Food and Farming

VICKI HIRD

London N1

by residents of the United Sates or England do not compare with the horror faced by those living in Kosovo. But the basic question is the same: Is there a moral obligation for the rich and the strong to care for those who are suffering and cannot help themselves?

Remembering our inaction on

so many similar occasions, and knowing how indifferent the United States is in moving beyond words on most "humanitarian" causes, I do have to wonder how many of our leaders are really concerned for the lives of those in Kosovo, and how many are simply excited to sit in front of a television and watch expensive bombs explode in the night.

MARK ALLEN HUNT Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Sir: Serbian independence was won from the Ottoman Empire in 1878 at the Congress of Berlin. That settlement followed the Russian victory in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, which was sparked by massacres (in Bulgaria) by Turkish forces – massacres which the Russians felt

IN BRIEF

on Lethal Weapon 3, nor was I

asked to (John Walsh on

Sir: Your report about the

Authority adjudications on our

adverts (12 April) neglected to

mention that it rejected six out

of the nine complaints made by

hunt supporters. The authority

agreed with our assertion that

trauma they undergo as part of the hunt. It agreed they could

hounds before death, and could

be simply ripped apart by the

foxes can die of pathological

shock from the stress and

also snffer extensive

Advertising Standards

Monday, 12 April).

TOM STOPPARD

London SW10

it was their humanitarian

responsibility to prevent,
Serbian independence resulted from Russian intervention in the Balkans to prevent a humanitarian disaster. If Kosovo wins independence from Serbia as a result of Nato action, the Serbs can at least comfort themselves that the Kosovars are merely following in their footsteps.

JOHN RIDDELL London SE3

Sir: The Turkish people will be disappointed by the report by Andrew Buncombe (7 April) on the Kosovo refugees (* "The plane is going to Turkey, 'said the official. 'But don't tell the refugees. They might refuse to get on' ").

might refuse to get on' ").

It may well he that some refugees would prefer to go to a rich country like Germany than a not so rich country like Turkey.

Many of our own people are living in conditions which are much in need of improvement, and we do not have huge resources to speod on refugees. Nevertheless we have taken in many thousands of Kurds, driven out of northern Iraq by

Saddam Hussein, and have now

abdominal wounding. It also

International Fund for Animal

Crowborough, East Sussex

Sir: Have you noticed that

whenever ministers of the

Crown are interviewed for

is almost always a copy of

Who's Who on a bookshelf

television at their desks there

immediately behind them? Do

you know (a) why they need

single governmental copy

which is passed round as

interviewee's image?

PETER MARTIN

one at all, and (b) if they have

one each, or whether there is a

required to lend gravitas to the

while pregnant.

SIMON POPE

agreed that vixeus were hunted

agreed to take 20,000 people from Kosovo, which will be providing more than our fair share of shelter.

We will do our best for the refugees and perhaps your reporter might recognise the hospitality which the people of Turkey are extending to them. OZDEM SANBERK Ambassador, Turkish Embassy London SW1

Sir: The only time a substantial country has been bombed from the air into surrender, the weapons used were nuclear:
NORMAN FOSTER
Duxford, Cambridgeshire

Lost in space

Sir: Adrian Berry doesn't remember his folklore very well when he says that during his 20-year nap Rip Van Winkle aged only one night (Astronautical Notes, 8 April). When he came down from his mountain Rip had a long white beard and, as Special Relativity predicts, was 20 years older.

This may act as a useful damper

on flights of fantasy to the stars at near-light speed from which astronauts return just a few years older, while their stay-at-home friends and relations have died hundreds of years previously in true Einsteinian fashion. Alas, it will be a while yet before large, massive objects like space ships and human beings in them achieve velocities of nearly 300,000 kilometres a second, part of the problem being that their masses will greatly increase at this speed, necessitating a complementary increase in the energy used to propel them until, at light speed, the energy required becomes

infinite. This will he a problem.

There is world enough and time for humans to reach the stars, but only after many generations of the astronauts on board have lived, hred, and died of old age. No Rip Van Winkle among them will return home to claim his compound interest.

RALPH ESTLING Dowlish Wake, Somerset

Teachers' merit pay

Sir: Your two correspondents (12 April) responding to your leader "Good teachers deserve to be paid more" raise perfectly legitimate questions.

questions.

The answer to D W McKaigue, questioning how a special needs teacher for severely handicapped children can be compared with a colleague who is in charge of bright A-level students, is surely through judging the skills and qualities they bring to their work. They are quite different hut open equally to a positive appraisal which would enable both of them to move through the threshold.

John Scholfield quite rightly draws attention to the budgetary considerations which militate against the appointment of the best person for the job and all too often end up in the youngest and cheapest teacher being appointed. This is why NASUWT has consistently argued that the current rigid formula funding under local management of schools cannot accommodate any genuine system of merit pay whatsoever. NIGEL de GRUCHY General Secretary NASUWT London WC2

Euro peril

Sir: Diane Coyle (Comment, 8
April) fails to address the real
issues involved in economic and
monetary union. The euro debate is
not simply a question of whether to
change the currency but of handing
over the economic and ultimately
the political control of this country
to the European Union.

She describes those campaigning to keep the pound as "elderly men with more stake in their past than in our future". The view that democracy is important and that entry into EMU will erode it deserves to be properly addressed and not trivialised.

Those who want Britain to be part of a prosperous and democratic Europe should remember that Europe and the European Union are not synonymous. The EU's fledgling currency is designed to lock us into a federation from which there is no escape. We should leave the eurozone to endure its own self-imposed economic and political stratigacket and emulate Europe's more dynamic economies, Norway and Switzerland, outside the EU JOHN BARNETT East Grinslead, West Sussex

Royle couple

Sir. Our advice to Nick Baker
("Nicking a little kudos", 12 April),
who is frustrated by the emergence
of a namesake working in a similar
field, is not to fiee and yield your
name and your identity, but to
double up and make friends.

We came across each other several years ago when a magazine to which we had independently submitted short stories sent them all back to one of us. Between us we have published 20 books, hut neither hookshops nor libraries distinguish hetween us. For all they know, the author of After Derrida is the same man who wrote The Matter of the Heart. The author of Counterparts and Telepathy and Literature was recently invited to address a conference in Finland: there is no such author.

As long as neither of us produces anything execrable, there's no problem. We've started doing readings together and a collaborative volume is in the pipeline.
NICHOLAS ROYLE
London W12
NICHOLAS ROYLE
Stirling, Central Scotland

Irregular

Sir:My scores in John Walsh's "Are you a regular guy?" questionnaire (13 April) were 5 a, 5 h, 5 c and 1 pass. The total makes me out to be slightly decent, right-thinking, sussed, modern, élitist, pretentious, and 33 per cent William Hague. Ought I to see a psychiatris?

JOHN O'BYRNE

Dublin

High time we saw solicitors as the heroes they really are

SOLICITORS OFTEN complain that their profession is unfairly painted as drab and mean-minded, while other callings have an aura of glamour and romance.

"Even journalism comes out better than the law," said one bitterly to me. "At least Superman was a journalist in real life. Show me the solicitor who has any pretensions at all to being a hero!"

At all to being a nero!"

No sooner said than done. We bring you the first episode in the adventures of the man known only to his adversaries as "LEGALMAN"!

STANLEY MILLS was 5ft 9in, dressed in dark clothes which were almost hut not quite a suit, and wearing spectacles that were not the pair he had bought expensively from an optician but the cheap stand-by pair he had got from

Boots when the expensive pair had gone missing. He was walking along Oxford Street on his way to the solicitor's office in Holborn where he worked, looking forward to exchanging a surreptitious "good morning" with the lovely Miss Walker who handled the conveyancing side of things, when suddenly be heard a commotion coming from a side street.

He glanced down it as he passed, and gasped. There, tottering over the top of a five-storey huilding, hung a stranded helicopter, seemingly about to fall. From the helicopter there dangled a long rope, with a beautiful girl clinging to the end of it. In the helicopter cabin, about to sever the rope with an axe and send the girl to her death on the pavement below, or perhaps to a very severe

bruising on the heads of the spectators below, sat a cackling, masked figure. Stanley Mills recognised him at once. It was The Infringer! "Holy search warrant! This looks like a little job for Legalman."

said Stanley Mills softly to himself.
He stepped behind a phone box,
opening his hrief case as he did so.
Seconds later, he stepped out and
launched himself into the air.

He had changed. No longer was he the drab figure in dark clothes and second-division specs. Admittedly, he did still have the dark clothes and also-ran spectacles on, not to menhon slightly scuffed shoes. But now he also had a red rose in his lapel button and a bowler hat worn at a rakish angle.

"It's Legalman!" gasped the crowd, as he shot through the air at a thoroughly legal 29mph.



MILES KINGTON

'It's Legalman,' gasped the crowd as he flew through the air at a thoroughly legal 29mph

"Thank God Legalman is here! If anyone can sort this mess out, it's Legalman!" "Good morning, Infringer," said Legalman, landing gently on the ledge beside the helicopter. "I'm sorry to see you're bringing chaos to the great metropolis again." "But I'm delighted to see you,

Legalman," chuckled the Infringer:
"I had hoped that this little incident
might hring you out into the open.
Now I've got you where I want you."
"If anyone's in trouble, it's you,
Infringer," said Legalman. "I'm

Infringer," said Legalman. "I'm atraid you don't realise quite how bad the trouble is in which you are."
Author's note: May I apologise for all the unnecessary dialogue? This is not my fault. It is always engineered by Legalman so that he can charge for it later under the heading of "Consultation and

Advice" @ £10 per minute.

"Oh yeah? What kind of trouble,
Legalman?"

"All sorts of trouble. Piloting a helicopter in an urban area contrary to the Public Flying Act, 1933. Parking a helicopter over a double-yellow-line street. Having an axe without a permit. Dangling a rope dangerously in a public thoroughfare. Flying a helicopter without due care and attention..."

"Help!" screamed the girl at the end of the rope. "Please help me!" Legalman took his specs off and looked strictly at her.

"All in good time, IF you please," he said. "If you want to apply for help, please phone for an appointment and I will try to fit you in."

Another scream rent the air. She slipped a little more.

"How are you going to help her now?" sneered The Infringer. "Quite simple," said Legalman. "I'm going to serve THIS on you."

And he handed over an injunction preventing The Infringer from causing any nuisance to the girl at the end of the rope, a writ for helicopter misdemeanours and several other summonses. The Infringer went pale. "You've lost none of your old powers, Legalman," he said.

At that moment the girl lost her grip and fell, screaming. In an instant Legalman had taken off and swooped beside her as she fell.

"I wonder if you've made a will yet?" he said in her ear. "Many people think there's all the time in the world, yet, did you know, more than 80 per cent of people die intestate?"

Will she die? Or will he save her?
And can she afford the paperwork if he does? Another episode
in the saga of the solicitor superhero, Legalman, coming soon!

حكدًا من الأجل

WEDNESDAY REVIEW The Independent 14 April

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Euro peril

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Carried and the Read the bonne. "- nor write anth more stakes er, our houre L Clear the competato is minute. at dim entri into EMU aller Figure 50 to 50 people by assistant and an ampalised The Entainties sign prospectives and democrate Fig. 7. - Fig. 2 remember tha Element and the European Units The EU short Comment of State and Whole the where the harmon, which there go the the consid leave the ene Line in Am self-mag. men in the whole discal strainade April - Late Europe sintere Commence of the second of the So the car a catalde the EU COMESTANIST WESSING

Royle couple

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the original language a will suffice THANKS TO Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright, Clinton can now lay claim to another thanks are a susan web as a susan webber wight, Clinton can now lay claim to another thanks are a susan webber with the susan webber webber with the susan webber with the susan webber webber webber webber webber with the susan webber can now lay claim to another hameful distinction: he's not start in the start in th hameful distinction: he's not just our second president to be impeached, be's also the only trumpt of court. He may truly be he's many truly be he's ward and the and the world be a find the world by the world be a find the world by the first the world by the than 50 per cent of people missions The state of the s deliberate, contemptuous lian the state of the country of the state of the country of the countr That is his shame to bear - and all America's, too. New York Post Make The Continue of the State of State of

WRIGHT FOUND Clinton in civil contempt of court. The second president to be impeached becomes the first to be so cited. The monetary penalty attached to the contempt ruling includes payment to Jones for attorneys' fees and similar expenses arising out of Clinton's "willful failure" to give bonest answers in his deposition. Clinton, a lawyer, could be disbarred under a cauon prohibiting "dis-

bonesty fraud, deceit or mis-

representation". It bas long

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD The American press comments on the ruling which finds Clinton in contempt of court

been obvious that his deposition in the Jones suit, in which he swore "I have never had sex-

JUDGE WEBBER Wright's rul ing puts into the legal and historical record that Clinton was nal relations with Monica untruthful and deliberately misleading, and assigns a legal sanction to uphold the rule of

imburse the court \$1,202 to ower the expenses incurred by the judge in travelling to Washington to preside over "his tainted deposition", and to pay Ms Jones any expenses incurred hecause of his untruthful behaviour are symbolic. He would be wise not to challenge them. The Judge has signalled her desire to liring this matter to a close. New York Times

law. The financial penalties IN CASE we had forgotten what calling for the President to rejustice was, a judge in Little Ruck reminded the country yesterday. Judge Wright held Clinton in contempt of court for not testifying truthfully. President or no president, there are apparently some things Judge Wright is not going to put up with in ner court. It was electrifving, it was galvanizing, to be reminded that there is still law, there is still truth, there is still justice.

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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*THE INDEPENDENT

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Will anyone provide work for redundant Clyde shipbuilders?

TWO MERCHANT shipyards are to close on the Clyde cue a bagpipe lament on the decline of the Scottisb shipbuilding industry. But is there anything that can be done about the decision by Kvaerner, the Norwegian construction group, to sell its interest in Govan and Clyde: bank, other than hair pulling and clothes rending?

There has been talk of finding a buyer for the two shipyards. Unfortunately, that seems like a dim prospect. Owning British shipyards amounts to dropping sacks of casb straight into the sea. Wages are too high for jobs that can be done just as well in India or Indonesia.

Nor does there seem to be an alternative to the disciplines of the market. Any manufacturing business that fails to generate a profit will always be operating with a sword of Damocles hanging over its bead. Government intervention by way of subsidies can be sensible only as a temporary expedient. The fantastically complicated European Union rules on subsidies allow governments to provide hand-outs bere and there, as long as they do not become provocatively obvious. It makes sense to be flexiole about bail-outs, but in the end there is little point in throwing good money after bad.

This is not to say that every effort should not be made on behalf of the 2,000 workers who will be losing their jobs. As long as capital is more mobile than labour, there will be an imbalance of power at the heart of capitalism. The decision to sell the Scottish yards comes as part of a worldwide review of Kvaerner's business, in which some 25,000 workers will lose their jobs. It is therefore unlikely that the Clydeside shipbuilders will be able to get other jobs within the company. Furthermore, as straight-talking ship workers they are unlikely to fit costly into the booming service sector and its telephone call centres staffed by sweettalking twentysomethings.

The Government has reneged on promises that the Labour party made in opposition to enact legislation to stop discrimination against older workers. At the same time, the so-called New Deal ta travesty of Roosevelt's struggle to pull the US out of the Depression) has done little for the over-fifties. If the Government is to endorse the line of Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, that the end of British manufacturing industry is inevitable and desirable, it must provide older workers with some alternative to The Oprah Winfrey Show and a pint of heavy.

The forthcoming Scottisb parliament has the opportunity to develop an industrial policy that copes with some of these problems. Manufacturing industry will have to remain a large part of the Scottish economy. Without expensive and sustained retraining, 5 million Scots cannot yet live on the proceeds of microchip factories and the service sector



At last, a chance for democracy in Algeria

TOMORROW ALGERIA holds its first elections since 1992, when the army overturned the victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). There is little chance that the vote will be free and fair - not least because the FIS is not allowed to field candidates. But the election of a successor to President Liamine Zeroual is a step towards the resumption of democratic politics in a country recovering from seven years of civil war.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika, an Algerian foreign minister in the Seventies, is almost certain to win the election. He is backed by both the National Liberation Front - which led the opposition to French colonialism - and, more importantly, by

the generals, who are the country's real rulers. The 680,000 Algerian voters resident in France have been

able to vote since Saturday. In Algeria there is a worry about vote-rigging, because vulnerable mobile ballot boxes are to be used in rural areas and soldiers will vote unseen in their barracks. None the less, the country's 15 million eligible voters will have a genuine choice of candidates.

Mr Bouteflika's opponents include three wbo are credible challengers. They are Mouloud Hamrouche, the reformist prime minister from 1989 to 1991; Hocine Ait Ahmed, the 78-year-old socialist with a reputation for incorruptibility and the charisma conferred by his membership of les neuf historiques, the nine original leaders of the independence war; and, the most interesting challenger, Ahmed Taleb Torahimi, the former foreign minister who has been backed by the leaders of the FIS in hiding abroad.

The army's cancellation of the 1992 election was not only the catalyst for the civil war, it was also taken by Islamic movements across the Arab world to show that democracy was a sham and that there was no alternative to violence.

lty forces on the one side and Islamic groups, including the FIS and the shadowy Armed Islamic Group, on the other. The crisis reached its nadir during the holy month of Ramadan last year when it was rumoured that security

forces were massacring civilians. Seven years and the murder of 77,000 people later, the government appears to have brought the country back under its control. The army is no longer involved in terror. and massacres committed by the Islamists bave diminished in frequency and are confined to rural areas.

The FIS may have miscalculated in backing Mr Ibrahimi. If be does not gain much support - and there are signs that voters are apathetic - the FIS will look like a busted flush. If be does well, the army may use it as another excuse for suppressing democracy. Although there are grounds for pessimism about the outcome of the elections, in a country trying to cope with a dramatically rising population and the collapse of oil revenues, democracy is the only bope The Algerian conflict was primarily between the secur- for a resumption of stability and prosperity.

Scotland will be the first skirmish in the battle for Britishness

AS IT sometimes is when dreams Salmond also repositioned the SNP The substitute threaten to come true, the unfulfilled desire suddenly seems a lot more re assuring than the real thing. Perhaps that is why Scottish nationalism is gets to any real power.

Six months ago, there were fears in New Labour that the SNP could run it close for dominance of the Parliament. At the head of the campaign, Donald Dewar and Helen Liddell were lacklustre and defensive. The best of the young Blairite stormtroopers from Millbank were inventive at finding any excuse for not being seconded to the Labour Party's colonial outpost of Keir Hardie House.

The SNP's leader, Alex Salmond. was motoring along nicely until be decided to change up a gear and denounce Nato's involvement in Kosovo. Given that the SNP has sought to avoid outright calls for Scottish independence during the campaign, it was an odd decision to stake the SNP's authority on foreign ffairs, an area where its voice would truly decisive only once it had already attained aeparation from Westminster A poli slump followed, forcing Mr Salmond to concede that he had merely "spoken my mind". This is the last defence of politicians who know they have said too much and have no option but to resort to echoing Martin Luther's cry: "Here I stand, I can do no other." Luther wasn't in the middle of an election

ampaign at the time.

By opting against the Chancellor's 1p income tax cut and entering a row about tax cuts with Labour 19 income tax cuts with Labour 19

as a nationalist party that has decided to be socialist until the day of glory arrives. That is a very confusing message and may well serve to shift SNP support into a left-wing niche, whereas a really persuasive democratic nationalism needs to develop its appeal right across the political spectrum.

Major ideological battles, such as the constitutional future of the UK, bear out Lenin's crude but convincing theory of power - that the group of people that will win is that which has a clear idea of where it wants to go. Numbers do not much matter. A small but dedicated band - be they of Communist revolutionaries in the dying days of the First World War in Russia or Blairites in the Labour Party of the early Nineties - can force through their vision, because no one else has an alternative coherent

enough to set against it. The SNP-having started with this advantage of a single, understandable goal - has allowed its aims to become fuzzy by venturing into other minefields. New Labour, by contrast. started out with a bleary idea of what would follow devolution and a certain fearfulness in its approach to Scotland. It was unsure about how often the Prime Minister should appear in Scotland during the campaign; the perception of the campaign being orchestrated by London might play to nationalist accusations of meddling. Yet Mr Blair was anxious not to feed



MCELVOY

Alex Salmond was motoring along nicely until he decided to denounce Nato's involvement in Kosovo

Mr Blair bas the perfect excuse to limit his forays north of the Border. He will probably go just once between now and the vote on 6 May.

The absence of the Prime Minister is doing no harm. Indeed, it has allowed Mr Dewar to show that he is not just Westminster-man on loan although he is careful to preach an insistent gospel of brotherhood and

harmony with London. Scottish New Labour has a strong communitarian emphasis on fighting poverty and on the transfer of sporting estates to communal ownership. Indeed, catching the non-conformist whiff of the Parliament manifesto, the mischievous thought occurs: why not shuffle off those inconveniently ad-

MONITOR

Information Bill, which the Government has no intention of delivering to

the rest of us?

True, news from the Norwegian owners Kyaerner of the planned closure of the last of the big merchant shipyards on the Clyde is hardly guaranteed to have Glasgow voters breaking out in a chorus of "Things Can Only Gel Better". But the fale of the remaining shipyards would be precarious no matter who ruled Scotland. Should Govan take its revenge at the next general election and vote SNP the Labour party will hardly be inconsolable to see the back of its sitting MP one Mohammed Sarwar. If there are questions to be asked about Govan and Clydehank, they are about regional development policies that allow injections of public money (in this case £87m), after which the company can walk away at the drop of a restructuring plan. The costeffectiveness of these publicly funded sweeteners demands far closer scrutiny than any government has

given them The adaptation of New Labour to a more Scottish identity requires balance, and it is no accident, as the Leninists would add, that later this week Gordon Brown is to restate Labour's commitment to the principle of the Union in a major speech on Britishness. From the thickets of confusion, a new theme is beginning to emerge. The Government has seen that it must stand up for the Union. or risk the steady incursions of Eng-

The alternative to the Government taking the lead in defining what a UK identity means in post-devolutionary times is allowing others with opposing interests to make the running. Mr Salmond may not be making a roaring success of this campaign, but his party will gain in confidence and experience from its exposure in the Parliament. It will challenge the settlement again next time, and the time after that - a border skirmish New Labour will have to fight repeatedly. The potential for separatist movements to reinvent themselves in

different conditions is the core of

belong, and in which they can thrive.

their strength. It is ominous that a growing sector of English right-wing opinion believes that the battle is already lost. The case for formal divorce between the English and the Scots is most elegantly made in an intriguing polemic by the journalist Simon Heffer, entitled Nor Shall My Sword The Reinvention of England. Mr Heffer thinks that the English should speed the Scots' path to independence, having nothing to lose thereby but their onerous fiscal transfers. Rid of the whinging Scots. England will be free to develop a humane nationalism, cut taxes and

even bring back the Tories. On the benefits of this last point and the likely lovability of an Albion stripped of its anchorage in the United Kingdom. I beg to differ with Mr Heffer His England would not be mine. But his argument should put the In Scotland by staying away. The war proved in Scotland by staying away. The war proved in Scotland by staying away. The war about tax cuts with Labour, Mr in Kosovo cut through the dilemma in Kosovo cut throug rest of us on our mettle. The sure way Britishness is the context in which to lose the hattle for Britishness is to

OUOTE OF THE DAY

"Ahl Ta ta ta ta ta. That's all I bave to say." Paula Jones, on Bill Clinton being held in contempt of court for lying in her sexual harassment case

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Extreme remedies are most appropriate for extreme diseases. Hippocrates, Greek physicion

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You don't have to be married, in a relationship, or related to include breakdown cover for a partner. You just have to share the same home address. A year's AA Personal Membership starts at just £43. Join now and get a year's breakdown cover for a partner from just £15.† And remember, with this offer, you and your partner will be covered, even when travelling in someone else's car.

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Lewinsky", was a lie.

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PANDORA

TOP SPIN. The GM food innovator Monsanto showed its customary fingertip control of the media when its PR flacks heard of a story perceived as dangerous. The corporation manufactures a genetically engineered milk bormone called rBGH (recombinant bovine growth bormone). Farmers inject rBGH into cattle every two weeks to increase milk production. But activists have expressed concern that rBGH may increase the risk of cancer among consumers. Two Tampa-based journalists taped a segment reporting this. Monsanto pitched its side of the story – and management at WTVT, the local Fox station, made the duo rewrite the story 83 times. That's right, 83. The Murdoch-owned WTVT then offered Steve Wilson and Jane Akre some £100,000 to quit, on condition that both reporters remain silent about the incident. They refused and the matter is now heading to court. Fascinating fact: later this year the EU moratorium on the use of rBGH is up for review.

BANKING TECHNOLOGY rocks! Thirty per cent of those entrusted with increasing credit-card security have forged someone else's signature in a credit-card transaction. An NCR survey at Frankfurt's European **Financial Services Summit** also revealed that 23 per cent of the frand-husters had asked a friend to forge theirs. Life in plastic, it's fantastic.

OH, AND you've got to hand it to Barbie. Prosthetic specialists at Northern Carolina's Duke University are using the doll's legs to create artificial fingers for amputees. The legs are trimmed to fit each patient they work successfully because the flexible joints in Barbie's legs allow

the fingers to bend. MINNIE DRIVER (pictured) put the hype about Martine McCutcheon perspective at the party for An Ideal Husband this week. As the ex-EastEnder appeared at the star's table at the Waldorf Hotel. photographers pestered Driver to have her picture taken with

McCuteheon, A baffled Minnie

replied: "Who?"

MICK HUCKNALL is said to be

offering his support to help the falling star Simon Le Bon rekindle his career. Lucky old Simon. It's enough to drive you to the opera - if they ever get it open again.

BORIS YELTSIN talks war but wants peace - in his private life, at least He's reportedly bought a serene £53m villa in Cap d'Antibes.

CHRISSIE HYNDE, the fiery rocker and animal rights activist, narrowly avoided questioning by the gendarmerie this week Hynde, a driving force behind the memorial concert for her pal Linda McCartney, exploded when she arrived at Home House, a smart West End club known for the hollowed-out elephant leg in its lohby, which is used as an umbrella stand. "This is part of a dead animal," Hynde told a crowd that included George Michael, Tom Jones and Sinéad O'Connor. "I'm going to hurv it in Portman Square." She emptied out the umbrellas, and headed for the exit - hut found her path blocked by security men. The situation was resolved after a

tense 20-minute stand-off. No

word from Home House about whether they'll go out on a

limb with exotic furnishings

in future.

WE INTERRUPT this column with a newsbreak. Derek Draper, of Lobbygate fame, has been fired by Talk Radio. Apparently he telephoned another show on air from Amsterdam in the company of a delightful working girl called Clandia. Has Talk Radio's boss Kelvin MacKenzie, no stranger to the sexier side of journalism, lost his sense of humour? Say it ain't

so, Kelv. OUR NUMBER one guy's number one chick likes to keep husy. Mother... lawyer... consort – how does Cherie find enough hours in the day? So who

> at the 15 May Woman Lawyer organised hy Blair Communications (no relation, we're assured) Blair advertises the 'stress

better to speak

free zone". A blissful contrast to Downing Street, or Contact Pandora by

e-mail: pandora@ independent.co.uk

Don't ask me to ape Cherie or Linda Wha

AFTER RELIGION, politics and fame, the higgest peddler of hypocrisy, deceit and myths has got to be the creation to which today's woman is allegedly incurably addicted: the role model. It is the RSJ of the daft conviction that the chosen few among us are Having It All. These few are supposedly fulfilled in work, family, sex life, love, friendship and wealth without so much as a bruise to relationships, integrity. leisure and sanity. In short, they achieve the impossible.

The role model has become a modern-day goddess to he wor-shipped and admired and emulated. Except that where she has magical powers (also known as housekeepers, nannies, fitness trainers, plus a PR machine that knows a hundred ways of disguising from the outside world - until the price is right crumbling marriages, resentful children, work half-done and periodic depression), the rest of us have only ourselves to fall back on.

We fail (and hlame ourselves) but we expect only a continuum of coping from the best of the RMs. So it's all the more dangerous when a



ROBERTS It's dangerous when a

role model-cum-goddess proves to be just as mortal as the rest of us

he just as mortal as the rest of us. In yesterday's Daily Mail, Cherie Booth, promoted as a role model more dutiful wife than overstressed career woman; by Labour's spin masters, wrote as patron of the charity Breast Cancer Care, about Linda McCartney. The charity is selling one of her photographs. Stallion and Standing Stone, to role model-cum-goddess proves to raise money for the support it gives

Cherie Booth says of Linda McCartney, "Nearly everyone... reflected on what a strong role model she was, not only as a wife and mother, but also as an original creative woman." And she adds, "Many also admitted to the terrible anxieties that her death had triggered in them. A common theme of their letters was, 'if Linda McCartney can't beat breast cancer, what hope have I got?""

Linda McCartney's death was tragic, as are the deaths of even younger women, among them the journalist Ruth Picardie, who wrote so movingly about her anger and sorrow at leaving very young child-ren. We can admire Ruth without transforming her into a role model. What drew many of us was not that she embodied an illusion of perfectinn hut that she was heart-breakingly human; just like us. Everybody hoped, but few truly expected her tn win the battle. Role models, in contrast, are required to bave an illogical, near-mystical ability not only to live life in the round hut also to defy premature death.

Mythology surrounds our role

Easter egg - there's a lot of it, and it doesn't amount to much when examined with a clear eye. It doesn't lessen the courage of Linda Mc-Cartney to say that she was a woman with a sound marriage who was a good enough mother, loved animals, took OK photographs and couldn't sing, but seemed to know how to make the best of life. Vegetarianism didn't grant immunity but it did provide her with a healthy income from her products. If the image-makers hadn't determined to turn her into a role model (not least as a boost to sales of soya sausages), cancer patients wouldn't now be feeling defeated and in despair because Linda lacked what they believed she had to possess: the

luck of the gods. A few years ago, I met a woman who was successful in the City, wrote novels, and had two children. How did she squeeze it all in? She explained that she spent a couple of hours a day writing in office time. She couldn't tell the truth in interviews because that would reveal to her hosses that she was shortchanging them. A year or so later, had become involved in drugs and her marriage was under strain Profiles, interviews continued to appear, buffing up her image as the one who Had It All. In her wake, no doubt, dozens of gullible women (and, yes, we all need to read between the lines a little more adently), rise at 5am to write the novel before an over-long day's work, returning too late to read a bedfime story, before sinking exhausted into bed repeating the mantra, "If she can do it, so can L" The truth is, she can't, without a price to be paid Every choice has a consequence.

Women, in the main, carry the burden of balancing work and home so they are hungrier than men for mentors. Even so, they should become more like men - admire a person's individual actions without nursing illusions about the success of an overall life, setting impossible standards to attain. In short, treat role models as fairy stories for grown-ups. Then, as with the death of Linda McCartney, it wouldn't come as quite such a devastating shock for some when the happy ending is, sadly, sometimes denied.

The road to a diplomatic settlement with Serbia

IS THERE a way of hringing this war to a quick conclusion? Any early solution depends on diplomacy, yet no serious oegotiating process has begun and there is no obvious interocutor. Belgrade is suspicious of the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, because he has associated himself with the core Nato demands, while Nato is wary of the Russian Prime Minister Yevgenl Primakov because of his readiness to play to anti-Western sentiment at home.

Once talks begin, they will not be easy. Nato will probably have little choice but to stick with the Rambouillet formula on autonomy but, in practice, Kosovo can never again be more than a notional part of Serbia. The scale of post-war reconstruction and the provision of security for returning refugees will mean that it must be in effect a Nato protectorate, whatever face-saving form of words may be found.

The main feature of any settlement must be that Western troops are based in Kosovo. This is the single point on which Nato cannot equivocate. The only serious solution to the mounting refugee crises in Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania is for people to return to what is left of their homes, but they cannot, dare not venture back until their security is guaranteed against Serb troops and militias. If the alliance is unable to achieve this, then it will have been defeated.

This was the issue on which it went to war in the first place and on which the Rambouillet talks foundered. President Slobodan Milosevic rejected all entreaties to accept an armed international force in the province to reassure the people; it was essential to his strategy that they be insecure. So far, despite Nato claims of cracks opening up in the Yugoslav government, there has been absolutely no sign of a shift in its position. Once the concession is



LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

Nato has been left over-dependent on coercion to bring this war to an early conclusion

made, however it is dressed up politically or diluted by the inclusion of Russian and Ukrainian troops, Serbia has been defeated. Serbs in Kosovo will also be uncomfortably aware of the grim revelations likely to emerge once their behaviour can

be properly scrutinised. The only possible compromise would be effective partition of Kosovo. If this is proposed by Belgrade, some in Nato might be tempted to accept. But it would be impossible to get Kosovar agreement to such a move. This would create a continuing source of tension, with Serbia fearing Kosovar attempts to seize back any land taken from them. So we must therefore be clear that the main purpose of diplomacy will be to ease the pain and humiliation of defeat for one side.

Victory probably will come to Nato, but it will have come at a heavy price, the result of a flawed strategy that allowed Milosevic to seize the initiative at the start of the campaign. As Nato's air strikes began last month, the Yugoslav decisions they were designed to influence had already been taken and the plans

IN "NO Second Troy",

Yeats contemplates the

woman he was to love all

his life, from a necessary

distance. The lady isn't named

in the poem but everyone knew

in 1910 that it was Maud

Gonne, the political activist

who turned down Yeats's pro-

In the poem, the apolitical

heart is transfixed when it en-

counters the fact that the loved

woman is herself political. Thus

-at least for the poet - the root

of the matter may appear to be

pre-political: Yeats detests vio-

lence, loves Maud Gonne; but

"Why should I blame her

Maud Gonne is violent.

posal of marriage.

they were supposed to frustrate were well advanced. Success now for Nato requires reversing the tragedy it failed to prevent. It has ruled out the only sure way of achieving this a land invasion to wrest the territory from Serb control. This is hecause of a fear of heavy casualties. the treachery of the terrain and the lack of a decent transport network making it difficult to get heavy armour to the front. Although Nato's land power in the area is slowly being reinforced, largely to deal with the refugee crisis, it would take weeks to assemble and train a proper invasion force. Even the introduction of US ground-attack helicopters has been delayed because of the primitive state of Alb-

anian facilities. So Nato has been left waging war against Yugoslavia's military infrastructure in the hope of persuading Milosevic to admit defeat. The targets in Serbia are described as being military in nature, and they are certainly chosen - and advertised in advance - to avoid excessive casualties, but their impact is also civilian. Nato can continue to work its way through the Yugoslav air force and barracks, but in this bizarre modern warfare they are not immediately relevant to the problem at hand. The attacks on fuel, factories and bridges are another matter. They are steadily ruining the already shaky Yugoslav economy. This is undoubtedly putting pressure on Milosevic to find an escape route, but there are no obvious manifestations of anti-war feeling. If anything, nationalist sentiment has hardened. As the inadvertent air attack on a train on Monday illustrated, there are limits to the number of civil/military targets that can he struck without harming civilians. Although Nato's current tactics do leave many people uncomfortable. the Serbs are paying a heavy political price for the success



Igor Ivanov and Madeleine Albright

Morten Holm

of their Kosovo campaign. The tide hope that somehow, through threats European opinion against Yugoslavia and created a level of commitment within the Nato nations that will be difficult to undermine. It is too late for Nato to conduct the air war over Kosovo to impede "ethnic cleansing", but it can create the conditions for the refugees' return. This requires depleting the fuel and ammunition stocks of the local Serb units, isolating them from Serbia so that they cannot be reinforced or resupplied, disrupting their command and control networks, obstructing their attempts to move by knocking down hridges and keeping them vulnerable to attack by constant daylight air patrols. This may release Nato from its dependence upon Milosevic's consent by returning refugees with an armed Nato guard. There are here at least the components of a plan that could bring this war to a conclusion on Nato's terms.

When this is coupled with the economic costs of the war, the outlook for Milosevic is therefore grim. His regime appears to be clinging to the

of human misery it created hardened or aid, Russia can extract them from the mess, but they have taken statements from Moscow far too literally. Milosevic himself is experienced enough to know just how little is on offer. The most useful role Russia could now play would be to dispel any wishful thinking in Belgrade (thereby also making themselves more acceptable to Nato in any future attempt to broker a deal)

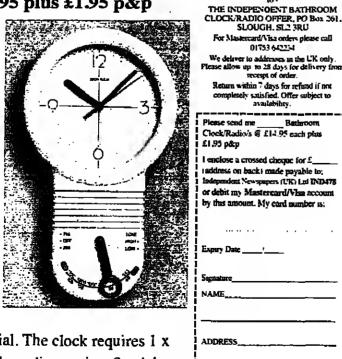
The failure to prepare for a land option has left Nato over-dependent upon coercion to bring this war to an early conclusion. This can work only by persuading Belgrade that the costs of further resistance are much higher than the costs of compliance with Nato's core demands. There is absolutely no way of predicting when this conclusion will be reached or if it will ever be reached at all. It is, however, most likely to come when Milosevic is convinced that Nato forces will eventually enter Kosovo without his consent.

The author is professor of war studies at King's College. London

THE INDEPENDENT

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that she filled my days/ With misery, or that she would of late! Have taught to ignorant men most violent ways./ Or hurled the little streets upon the great / Had they but courage equal to desire?/ What could have made her peaceful with a mind/ That nobleness made simple as a fire! With beauty like a tightened bow, a kind/That is not natural in an age like this / Being high and solitary and most stern?/ Why. what could she have done, being what she is?/ Was there another Troy for her to burn?"

The process is, I take it, as follows. First: "Why should I blame her for filling my days with misery?" So far, indeed, we have a question that virtually invites a sceptical response. What better reason could a person have for resentment?

But the succeeding suggestion, which follows swiftly, is that self-oity is an ignoble emotion and of course we pull back at once; we do not wish to be trapped into endorsing it. Then, as the sentence

moves from the personal plane to the political, we begin to see that the poet is not after all playing a trivial game; the lady has made him wretched and, meanwhile, has stirred up revolutions, poor against rich.

If the personal misery seems a puny thing, the sentence implies, then let it be so; something larger is in any case afoot here. With Yeats's poem, it is of the essence of the work that it does not present a marriage of true minds. The poet must so speak to establish his own unsympathising character before he allows the lady her proper transcendence. That is why, when the reference shifts to politics, the tone is tetchily personal, half-comprehending,



A lesson in the politics of love

PODIUM A D NUTTALL

From the Oxford English Professor's Warton lecture at the British Academy

indeed, unsympathetic. Maud Gonne and Yeats both loved Ireland but her love was programmatic, future-orientated while his was backwardlooking, enamoured of custom and ceremony. We may add that Yeats obviously got a further kick out of the exhilarating rebarbativeness of reactionary, hierarchical views. The poet's contempt for the ignorant poor

is there on the page, with no attempt to palliate or conceal it. The same contempt blazes in a harsh two-line poem: "Pornell came down the road, he said to a cheering man:/ Treland shall get her freedom and you still break stone."

The crushing effect of the measured, spondaic prophecy coming from the great revolutionary himself is to turn the "cheering man" of the preceding line into an arrested grotesque like something in Picasso's Guernica.

The same tic of contempt shows in the line: "Had they but courage equal to desire?" Yeats pulls off a curious technical feat here. He is saying what he really thinks and is speaking "in character", as if to say: "These are the things

people like me will always say". Meanwhile, the lines are there to be at once hlotted out by the lady herself, and - in so far as she is the Unanswerable Positive of the poem - the conservative suggestion must be negated, which is as much as to say rendered, after all, apolitical. Hence the appropriateness of an element of primitive defamiliarisation in "Hurled the little streets upon the great". It is as if the sophisticated political meaning: "caused the lower classes to

rise in violent struggle with the upper classes" is engulfed by a child's surrealism: houses fighting houses. The next lines show how

there is no irony in the poet's public decision not to resent her treatment of him. Yeats alone of 20th-century poets could unleash, when he chose, authentic, over-mastering high style, which carries all before it. He does so here.

"What could have made her peaceful with a mind/ That nobleness made simple as a fire./ With beauty like a tightened bow, a kind/ That is not natural in an age like this,/ Being high and solitary and most stern?"

This is intended to transcend all that has gone before, and it does just that. The poet's own thoughts are erased by an intuition of splendour that is identical with love. It is not so much that criticism dies away before the image of the lady herself, the very disclaiming of the right to criticise dies, becomes irrelevant to the contemplated wonder. The lady is not of our age, not of our kind perhaps; she is like fire from the sky, wholly

Albania helpless in face of aggressor

INVASION

over Albania, the Maoist dicta- from the 1960s, is Chinese-built tor Enver Hoxha built almost one million concrete pillboxes to defend his country and unify its downtrodden people against invasions that he knew would never happen. Like Slobodan Milosevic, he realised that there was nothing to compare with the threat of war to marshal a country's people behind its leader.

The crumbling bunkers still litter the countryside, pointing comically in all directions like pale mushrooms, which are a constant reminder of the futility of Hoxha's rule.

Finally, yesterday, someone did invade. Serbian infantry took the border post at Kamenica and torched two towns. And the pillboxes, used for decades as toilets and mangers, proved to be just as useless as Hoxha had always known they would be.

Such helplessness in the face of aggression is one of the reasons the Albanian government last week invited Nato to take over its sea and air ports. Even before the civil unrest of 1997 which brought down the government of Dr Sali Berisha. Albania's military was somewhat toothless, After, when military arsenals had been littered by angry civilians (and sold on to the Kosovo Liberation Army), it was positively

According to the latest publicly available figures, Albania's rag-tag army boasts 859 battle tanks, 103 armoured personnel carriers and 823 artillery pieces. The Navy has one submarine and 31 patrol boats, and the Air Force has 98 combat aircraft. What the fig-

DURING HIS tyrannical reign much of the hardware dates and would not look out of place in a military museur

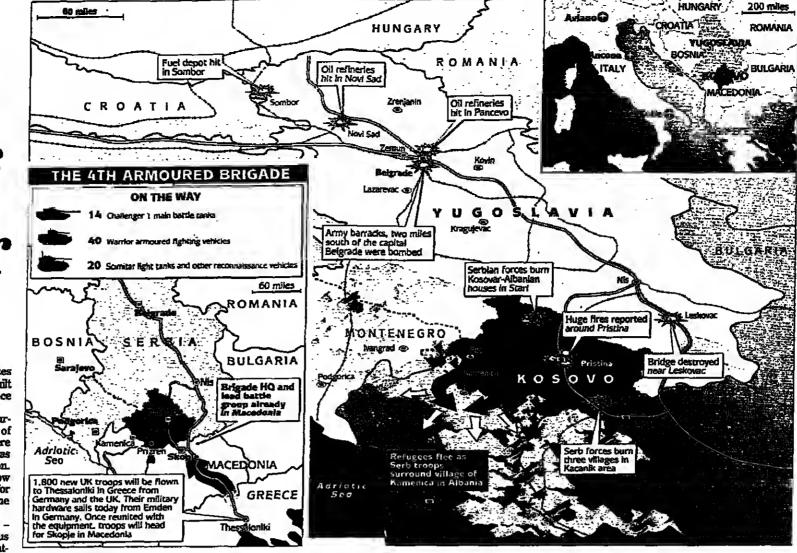
So when news of the incursion reached the people of Tirana, where in the past there would have been fear, there was only anger and indignation. After all, Albania is now becoming Nato's launch pad for any ground action against the Serbs in Kosovo.

"The Serbs are cowards they would never dore attack us now we are with Nato" said Tatjana Muka, 35, a shoe shop assistant. "I hate the Serbs and in the past. I would have been scared they would have invaded all the way. But not now."

Yesterday, evidence of Albania's status at Nato's new forward base was beginning to emerge at Durres, the country's main seaport, and at Tirana airport, where a military build-up is gathering pace in tandem with the aid effort.

Until recently, Autum Daniels from Seattle had no idea where Albania was, much less Kosovo. But here she was, standing in the airport mud, a tiny figure carrying an M60 sub-machine-gun almost as hig as she was, "I'm here for the people," she said. "I've seen the pictures of babies crying and families being forced out of their homes and I don't like it. Of course, we've all talked about more serious conflicts, but that's not why we're here right now." All around Airman Daniels, other American, French, Greek, Turkish and Dutch soldiers were busy doing their bit to feed 600,000 in

camps all over the region. But with the presence of "Operation Hawk" personnel preparing the way for the ar-



rival of Apache attack helicopters from America, one could not help feeling that a beach-head was being created for the arrival of less humanitarian equipment, Last Friday, Durres, west of Tirana, was a

sleepy harbour for ferries to and from Italy. Yesterday, huge French troop carriers were there, disgorging hundreds of soldiers. Medecins San Frootieres, the medical charity, has been complaining for some time that the use of Nato troops at refugee camps, while Nato is bombing Yugoslavia, is compromising the camps' status as

At Tirana airport, the lines appeared more blurred than ever. Operating around the clock, its single airstrip had been taking up to 60 transporter planes a day, American C-17 Globemasters and C-130 Hercules from Ramstein in Germany accounted for twothirds of the flights, the rest being operated from other Nato

neutral places of safety.

Once on the ground, the aid is distributed by a fleet of 30 helicopters, including US Navy Sea Stallions and Dutch and Greek H-46 twin-rotor aircraft. An Albanian by one of the Hoxba pillboxes that proved no use yesterday Petr Josek

The effort and organisation involved is staggering. Many countries are participating, but this is mainly America's show. And other military equipment

Almost 500 US military personnel are already on the base, achievements. But the strucbuilding Mash-style tents, tures being set in place smack

radar and communication systems. They have taken over air traffic control and logistics on the ground. US service personnel have worked unstintingly in cold, wet conditions, and they are rightly proud of their cation systems, defence im-

of permanence rather than a swift swoop into an improving are delighting the Albanian who believe their reward will be new roads, airports, communiprovements and regional stature. "We have blown it twice

Russia and then with China," said Major Vladimir Avdia, an Albanian MiG-19 fighter pilot. "But now it's Nato. We are sharing our facilities now and later we will be given help to improve our infrastructure. It is wonderful for morale." As news spread of yester-

day's incursions into Albanian, the Albanians were more sure than ever that their new partnership was a positive step for-ward. For Nato's part, it knows that if there were to be a ground war here would be a good place to land troops. We already have an advanced team conducting sur-

veys for the arrival of the Apache helicopters" said Master Sergeant Michael Land, one of the USAF's spokesmen. 'Certainly, in the event of an escalation in activity, this airfield would become a very important centre militarily." It remains to be seen ju

how big the tiny, muddy airfield outside Tirana will grow over the next few months. In a few years, perhaps, it may even have its own bowling alley and a bar serving Budweiser and

TIMETABLE: DAYS 20, 21

Monday 12 April Som: Air raid sirens sound in Beigrade, Nis, Kragujevac and Podgorica. **9pm:** Yugoslav news agency Tanjug says third civilian has died in hospital after a Nato missile hit a car on the road between Pristina and Kosovo Polje earlier in the afternoon.

Tuesday 13 April 1.15-1.30am: Four big expiosions heard in Pristina.

2.30am: Three huge explosions shake eastern Belgrade close to city centre. Tanjug says the military barracks Vasa Carapic In Belgrade's Banjica district were hit. 6.35am: Air raid alert in Beigrade ends. 8.45am: Nato planes

hit a Yugoslav army barracks and fuel tanker trucks in Pristina 9am: Madeleine Albright meets Russlan Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, to encourage Russia back into the searcii for peace in Kosovo.

Midday: Italian news agency reports Serbian forces have crossed the Yugoslav-Albanian border and occupied the northern Albanian village of Padesh. 1 pm: Australian Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, says he has been informed by Yugoslav Foreign Ministry that Australian aid workers will be charged with spying. 3.30pm: Serb forces withdraw from Albanian territory after surrounding the northern village of Kamenica and exchanging fire with Albanian border guards for several hours, 3.30pm: Yugoslav Foreign Ministry denies allegations that Serb forces entered Albania. 3.40pm; Blair says Britain will send extra 1,800 troops to help the humanitarian effort. Spm: Nato says that

Slobodan Milosevic now

has 23 battallon-size

units in Kasovo.

Serb incursion is a sharp taste Extra troops could of how war could engulf region spearhead invasion

THE YUGOSLAV army's incur-sion into Albania yesterday of fers an alarming, albeit brief, taste of how the Kosovo war could quickly engulf neigbbouring countries — and bring Serb ground forces into the direct proximity of an everincreasing number of Nato troops. But it was neither surprising nor given the way this war is developing, especially outrageous.

The deeper fear, that the raid could presage a wider Serb invasion of Albania, for the moment seems unfounded. After three weeks of aerial pounding, the Serb army almost certainly has neither the fuel nor the supplies for such an exercise. To invade, moreover, would bring its tanks and artillery out into the open. exposing it at last to attack by episodes like that of yesterday are almost certain to recur.

Ever since its armed insur-

ANALYSIS

the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) has enjoyed bases and logistic support across the rugged frootier of Northern Albania. Even a year ago, Serb forces were carrying out 'hot pursuit' cross-border raids to strike at these strongholds and disrupt supply lines. For their part, the KLA was

drawing on the rich source of light weapons constituted by stocks plundered when the central Albanian state selfdestructed amid the chaos following the colossal financial scandal of 1997, which cut the country's wealth in half.

But these weapons, ideal for the highly mobile guerrilla war waged by the KLA, were no frustrated Nato pilots. But match for the artillery and armour of the Yugoslav army. So it seems to have proved in the five days' fighting culminating gency first became a factor in in yesterday's operation, which the crisis some 14 months ago, saw the brief capture and par-

tial burning of a village half a mile into Albania, and - for the first time - the involvement of Albanian army units as well as border police. In the past, the Albanian army proper has stayed a few miles inland from the border, precisely to avoid "provocations" which could escalate into a full-scale confrontation with the vastly superior Serb forces. This time the scale of the incursion, and the threat to the country's territorial integrity plainly left

them no choice. But there is precious little that Albania on its own can do about it. Even before the virtual collapse of its state - and with it the armed forces - two years ago, the country was the poorest in Europe, with a per capita GDP of under \$4,000 (22,500). Since then a fragile stability has been restored under the Prime Minister, Pandeli Majko. But refugees on its territory. But the

tribal factors mean the government's writ barely runs to the north of the country, and even if it did, the army's strength is reckoned to be 10,000 at best, compared with the estimated 40,000-strong Yugoslav army and Serb security forces in and around Kosovo. If Tirana wants military protection, it will have to look to Nato for it - indeed that is precisely what is happening.

After last weekend's announcement that Albania's entire military infrastructure, such as it is, is being placed under the control of the alliance, the country is in reality little more than a Nato protectorate. The official, and for the time being genuine, reason is only a Western takeover on this scale can tackle the hnmanitarian crisis posed by the 300,000 or more Kosovo

upshot is that Albania is in a state of undeclared war with Belgrade. What is more. President Milosevic knows that any Nato ground invasion of Kosovo would now come from Albania rather than Macedonia. For that reason, analysts reckon, he may be seeking to push the KLA units back from the border while he builds up ground defences against a Nato at-

But the Serb incursion poses a subtler threat. Throughout the Kosovo crisis, for all the ties of blood and culture. Albagia has tried to avoid stoking the fires of a "greater Albania," embracing all or most of Kosovo where Albanians until lately constituted 90 per cent of the population, and a slice of Western Macedonia, where ethnic Albanians are strongly represented. The very notion alarms all Slav populations of the region. More fighting could light the fuse of a wider, generalised conflict between Slavs and Albanians in the central Balkans. gineers and other support

MILITARY PRESENCE

By JOHN DAVISON

THE EXTRA 1,800 British troops being sent to Macedonia will double the number of frontline soldiers on the ground and bring the Army's presence there to full armoured brigade strength. This is a potent, selfsupporting formation that could provide the perfect spearhead to an invasion of Kosovo, But it may not be fully in place for a month and would require huge hack-up from other nation's forces before becoming a cred-

ible threat. The deployment features a squadron of 14 Challenger 1 main battle tanks from the King's Royal Hussars, two companies of armoured infantry with 40 Warrior lighting vehicles from the Irish Guards and the Green Howards, six AS-90 155mm self propelled guns from 4 Regiment Royal Artillery, with combat Royal En-

units. These represent a second battle group from 4 Armoured Brigade (the "Black Rats") based in Osnabrück, Germany. They will join the brigade's tactical headquarters, which is already in Macedonia, and its rently deployed on the frontier with Kosovo. Support engineers and an

Irish Guards reconnaissance group will leave by ship today from Emden in northern Germany, while the heavy armour will embark on Friday. The troops will be dispatched to join their equipment when it arrives at Thessaloniki in Greece about

Units deploying from Britain include 20 light reconnaissance vehicles from the Household Cavalry Regiment, based at Windsor and 10 DROPS logisterick in North Yorkshire. In all, can be done.

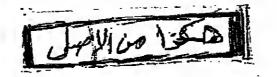
the new troops will bring the total deployment in Macedonia and Greece to 6.300.

Once fully assembled, the brigade will be able to train effectively together for the first time since it was placed on alert lead battle group, which is cur- in February. The lead battle group has been in Macedonia since the end of the first set of Rambouillet peace talks, and the second battle group has been on 72 hours' notice to move ever since.

Defence sources say it will be 20 to 30 days before the new troops and their equipment are fully operational. Given that this is supposed to be the backbone of a peace-keeping or protection force, the time scale gives a strong indication of how long both the Government and Nato commanders think that the air campaign will have tic support vehicles from Cat- to continue before any deal



SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, WHILE STOCKS LAST. INTEL, THE INTEL INSIDE LOOG AND PENTIUM ARE REGISTERED TRACEMARKS OF INTEL CORPORATION



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then transferred to the mainland to complete his education at Cheltenham College. It was at Cheltenham that his love for mathematics and engineering was developed. The combination of a excellent mathematics teacher, a good memory and being "not much good at games" meant that he excelled at school and at 17 won a scholarship to University College London. He graduated with a first class BSc honours degree in

63 different counties.

hydroelectric power station on the River Zambesi in southern Africa.

Described by Paton as the "highlight

of my professional career", the dif-

ficult Kariba project was completed in 1960, on time and within its £75m

hudget, and he was appointed CMG.

tation Paton and his team gained during its execution that led to the

firm's involvement in many of the

biggest dam construction projects

around the world over the next two

decades. These included schemes in

the Sudan, Argentina, South Africa

and two large dams, the Mangla and

Born in the Channel Island of Jer-

sey in 1905, Paton spent the first two

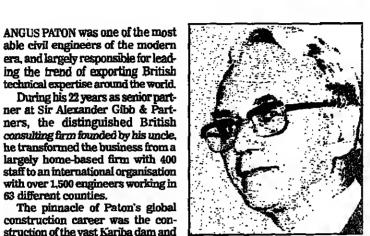
years of his school life, until the age

of seven and a half, in France. He

Tarbela, in Pakistan.

It was this project and the repu-

civil engineering three years later Civil engineering was in his blood, through his uncle Sir Alexander Gibb. Paton spent the first three years of his career, from 1925, under Gibb's pupillage at his firm of con-



Sir Angus Paton

The Kariba dam was completed in 1960. Paton. described it as the highlight of his career

sulting engineers. He went on to work on a variety of projects on site in the UK and abroad, notably maritime ones in Burma and Canada.

In 1934, two years after his marriage, Paton took on his biggest task thus far, acting as Resident Engineer in charge of the construction of the new Guinness brewery in Park Royal, north-west London. This £2m project included seven large steel-framed huildings, a power station, storage silo, roads and railway sidings. Beer still flows from these premises today. The success of his work on the Guinness plant led to Paton's he-

coming a partner of the firm in 1938. In the office Paton was renowned for his problem-solving ability. His colleagues were aware - and often in awe of the fact - that he was capable of doing "any job, quicker and better than anyone else". His

depth of knowledge across disciplines allowed him to become involved with all aspects of contracts from design and construction to financial and legal. His vast knowledge, combined with a direct manner and piercing gaze, could put those around him from office junior to senior clients nn their guard.

As a partner he took charge of many large UK-based industrial and trading estate developments in Wales, West Cumberland and London. At the outbreak of the Second World War he became a central figure in the British eogineering war effort designing and constructing ordnance factories, underground aircraft assembly plants and a new turbine factory for British Thomson-

During the war, Sir Alexander Gibh & Partners secured a huge number of government contracts. causing their work force to leap by over 2,000 in a couple of weeks in September 1939. Paton was a key member of the team and his work included supervising construction of some of the massive concrete sections of the Mulberry Harbour scheme in the London Docks.

After the war Paton continued to work for the company, now with Sir Alexander Gibb's son Alastair at the helm. He spent the next 10 years developing the business overseas and upon Alastair Gibb's sudden death in a polo accident, took over as senior partner in 1955.

The appointment coincided with Paton taking charge of the Kariba dam and hydroelectric power scheme on the Zambia-Zimhabwe border. This difficult project would see the construction of a 420ft-high double curvature arch dam - the biggest ever constructed - and a 600MW underground power station in a remote location 175 miles

downstream from the Victoria Falls, Working in partnership with the Freoch dam-design expert Andre Coyne, Paton led the overall design of the project and the supervision of construction work by the Italian main The Kariba project on the River Zambesi. Dam-construction commissions world-wide followed contractor Impresit. Despite suffering some of the worst flooding on record halfway through the job it was completed on time and to hudget.

The project acted as a springboard for Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners to win some of the biggest civil engineering contracts around the world. Paton continued to encourage the firm's expansion overseas and as the business grew. One of the higgest of these projects was to advise the World Bank during the construction of the massive and highly complex Tarbela dam in Pakistan.

In addition to his engineering responsibilities. Paton took an active interest in the profession as a whole perhaps more so following the un-

Institution of Civil Engineers in 1970-71. He continually pressed engineers around him to open their minds to other disciplines.

He published many learned papers on a variety of civil engineering issues and a book entitled Power from Water (1960), and he put much effort into pressing the industry and its clients to spend more money flow of work continued the size of the on valuable research and development; he was also central to the formation of the government-backed Construction Industry Research and Information Association.

In 1973 he was knighted for services to the construction profession and in 1976 was a founding Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering later renamed the Royal Academy timely death of his wife in 1964. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1969 and was President of the neers to be appointed vice-president 7 April 1999.

of the Royal Society. He retired from Sir Alexander Gibh & Partners in

1977, though remaining a consultant. His last two decades were spent in Jersey but he remained, until recently, in close contact with the profession and his former colleagues. retaining the sharp analytical mind and clear process of thought for which he was known throughout a distinguished career.

ANTONY OLIVER

Thomas Angus Lyall Paton, civil enaineer: born Grouville, Jersey 10 May 1905; partner, Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners 1938-55, senior partner 1955-77, senior consultant 1977-84; CMG 1960; FRS 1969; Kt 1973; married 1932 Joan Delmé-Murray (died 1964; two sons, two daughters); died St Helier, Jersey

Lt-Gen Sir Ian Harris

IAN HARRIS commanded the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Ulster Rifles (RUR) on D-Day 1944 and led them with considerable courage through some of the fiercest fighting in the months that followed. He had trained his men particularly well; knitting them into a close fraternity and inspiring in them an admiration and respect for him and faith in his leadership. As a consequence morale seldom faitered in his battalion and as one of his officers who fought alongside him was to recall, "we took our victories and our wounds as if they

were everyday occurrences". "Tommy" Harris led a skilful at-tack on Cambes and his battalion led the Allied Armies' thrust into Caen on 9 July 1944 where after a tough fight they later celebrated with the Canadians and the liberated population. For the next six months the battalion was seldom out of action, with a difficult assault crossing of the Meuse-Escaut Canal and further winter battles in Holland, in particular at Wanssum where casualties were high.

Harris was one of six brothers and three sisters, and spent his early life on his father's stud farm in Co Tipperary. Educated at Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, he was commissioned into the Royal Ulster Rifles in 1930. He joined the First Battalion in Belfast and it was during a boxing match there that a spectator called out "Come on, Tommy" to encourage him. The name stuck

Before the outbreak of the Second World War he enjoyed the life of a young subaltern with postings in the Sudan, Palestine, Egypt and Hong Kong, where he became Adjutant, while from 1937 to 1939 he was on the North West Frontier. He was a natural horseman and excelled at polo.

He returned to the UK when war broke out and held a series of staff appointments before being given command of the 2nd Battalion which he left in the battlefields of Holland at the end of December 1944.

From the bleak Dutch winter he was flown to India to become GSO 1 of 25 Indian Division in its tortuous advance down the Arakan coast in Burma. He was then sent to 7 Indian Division in its re-occupation of Malaya and remained in India to see through its independence. On his return to the UK he attend Junior Service Staff College before becoming

In May that year he returned to his native Ulster to take command of 6 RUR (TA) before becoming Chief of Staff HQ Northern Ireland Three years later he returned to the Malayan jungle to command the 1st Federal Infantry Brigade in searching out and destroying Communist terrorists. Through constant and intensive patrolling, gradually the terrorists were denied success.

QMG Scottish Command until 1951.

MRT-

DEATH .

On his return to the UK he was appointed Deputy Director of Staff Duties in the War Office, where he was responsible for executive deployment of the Army throughout the world. In 1960 he was made GOC Singapore and District and in 1963 he became Chief of Staff Contingencies Planning at Shape in Paris where he was in charge of Nato plans for dealing with the Russian threat to occupy West Berlin. Aware of his impending retirement, with his wife he bought some land in the South of France. His last military appointment was one he delighted in, for he became GOC Northern Ireland, Sadly by the time of his retirement from the Army in 1969, an ever-darkening

shadow was enveloping the province. As Regimental Colonel of the RUR he became deeply involved with the amalgamation of the three regiments that went to form the Royal Irish Rangers, steering it through with a combination of steely tenacity and charm, and becoming Regimental Colonel from 1968 to 1972.

On his retirement he became Chairman of the British Support Committee for the Memorial Museum at Caen, as well as being made an honorary citizen. He returned to his family partnership and management of the Ballykisteen Stud. He hecame Chairman (1977-79) and President (1984-88) of the Irish Bloodstock Breeders' Association

Tommy Harris never forgot those who served with him, and along with his wife, who had great flair and organisational skills at fundraising, continued to work for the welfare of his former troops. He was a man of great humour and had a vast reservoir of kindness and warmth.

Ian Cecil ("Tommy") Harris, soldier and bloodstock breeder: born Gold en, Co Tipperary 7 July 1910; DSO 1945. Chief of Staff, Northern Ireland 1952-54; Commander 1 Feder-Deputy Director of Staff Duties, War Office 1957-60; CBE 1958, KBE 1967; GOC Singapore 1960-62; CB 1962; Chief of Staff Contingencies Planning Shape 1963-66; GOC in C, then GOC NI Command 1966-69; married ried (one son, one daughter); died son, and one son deceased); died 1945 Anne-Marie Desmotreux (one

Dublin 12 March 1999.

Professor Peter Self

PETER SELF had four careers - as journalist, as university teacher of planning, as planning policy-maker and finally, in Australia, as teacher and government adviser - though he had the intellect and tenacity to have pursued many more.

It is no criticism, indeed it is a compliment, to say that he had an old-fashioned British academic style. He was a traditional liberal; he instinctively distrusted grand theory, preferring to trust common sense. That caused him to question both the planning orthodoxies of the 1960s and the anti-planning ideologies of the 1980s.

He loved argument, whether with a cabinet minister or a student, hut conducted it always in the style of liberal discourse that came naturally to him. Slowly, quietly, in his very personal questioning tone, he would advance a proposition, expecting to be challenged or qualified, restating and

refining his own position. Born in London in 1919, into a comfortable middle-class family, he had a conventional education at Lancing College and then Balliol College, Oxford, where he read Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Graduating after Dunkirk, he characteristically and courageously became a conscientious objector.



Self: common sense

In 1944 he began his first career, as a journalist and member of the editorial team at The Economist. where he continued until 1962. But that year. 1944 - a time of huge excitement about post-war reconstruction, with the publication of the two great Abercromhie plans for London - he also began extramural teaching for London University.

In 1948 Professor William Robson, whose 1939 book The Government and Misgovernment of London had provided the blueprint for the Greater London Council. hrought him to the LSE, and his second

This was the time of the post-war new towns and the 1947 Planning Act. Returning to power in 1951, the Conservatives set the private huilders free hut sought to contain the growth of the cities, and showed little enthusiasm for new towns. The hirth-rate unexpectedly rose from 1955, just as slum clearance began again in earnest; something had to give. Self's first book. Cities in Flood, published in 1957, had huge journalistic verve and instantly established his reputation as the country's leading academic expert on planning questions - albeit operating outside the then Town Planning Institute (which, however, later gave him honorary membership).

He became involved in the Town and Country Planning Association in 1954, on the prompting of the formidable Frederic Osborn, who doubtless picked him as worthy successor. As with most things "FJO" planned, so it happened: Self hecame vicechairman of the executive the next year, and followed the 77-year-old Osborn into the chairmanship in 1961. He did not equal Osborn's record of 17 years in the chair, but he did manage eight crucial years: the resumption of the new towns programme by a reluctant Conservative administration, the return of Labour in 1964. and the first great experiment in

regional planning in the UK. The TCPA commanded immense respect because of its constant advocacy of planned urban dispersal, and chairmanship involved regular advocacy before ministers, accompanied by successive directors: first Wyndham Thomas, who left to manage Peterborough New Town, and then, from 1967, David Hall. This political rough-and-tumble did not come naturally, hut Self entered into the spirit of it, and his powerful intellectual gifts proved fully a match for the Socratic style of Richard Crossman, then Minister for Housing and Local Government.

Thus established in his third career, in the 1960s he progressed in his second: elevated to Reader (1961) and Professor (1963) at the LSE, in 1966 he helped launch one of the socalled new planning courses, the MSc in Regional and Urban Planning Studies, which continues today. An obvious choice to join the South East Regional Economic Planning Council in 1966, he achieved the distinction of sitting on it continuously until Michael Heseltine dissolved it in 1979. He prepared and gave evideace to the Roskill Commission on

the Third London Airport, and this led him to write a devastating attack on the use of cost-benefit analysis in planning, Econocrats and the Policy Process (1976) - a turning-point in

British planning theory and practice. He took early retirement in 1982, aged 63, and - after a few doubts and hesitations - embarked on his fourth career as an academic in Australia. as Senior Research Fellow (1982-84) and then Visiting Fellow (until his death) at the Australian National University in Canberra. Here he joined leading Australian academics like Max Neutze and Patrick Troy to make up one of the outstanding urban research units in the world, where he played a hugely stimulating role.

The move gave him a new lease of academic productivity, with three major books, Planning the Urban Region (1982), Political Theories of Modern Government (1985) and Government by the Market? (1993). He finished his last book. Rolling Bock the Market: economic dogma and political choice, only five weeks before his death, from liver cancer; it will be published by Macmillan

in November. Soon after his arrival, the Hawke government asked him to chair a major inquiry into Australian local government finance (1984-85). Self

showed amazing ability not only to grasp the technical complexities hut also the impacts on the ordinary person in the Sydney suburb, and his

report was widely commended. Self's old-fashioned British aca demic style, which he shared with many of his peers, was one of the finest achievements of the educational system that reared him and that he served with such distinction. As grand and often nonsensical theory has overcome much of academia, we have lost much of such style, and with the death of Peter Self we realise how much we have lost.

Peter John Otter Self, journalist, town planner and political scientist: born London 7 June 1919; Lecturer in Public Administration, London School of Economics 1948-61, Reader in Political Science 1961-63: Professor of Public Administration. London University 1963-82 (Emeritus); Senior Research Fellow, Australian National University 1982-64, Visiting Fellow 1981-99; married 1950 Diana Pitt (marriage dissolved), 1959 Elaine Adams (nee Rosenbloom; two sons; marriage dissolved), 1981 Sandra Gough (née Moiseiwitsch, died 1996); died Canberra 29 March 1999.

Colin Manley

"COLIN MANLEY was brilliant," Paul McCartney said during an interview on BBC Radio Merseyside in 1988. "He was the finest guitarist around Liverpool in the early 1960s and he could do all that Chet Atkins stuff with two fingers. A lot of the lads tried to play like that, but only Colin

could do it really well." McCartney knew Manley from their schooldays together at Liverpool Institute. While Paul and George Harrison became Beatles, Colin Manley and his schoolfriend, Don Andrew, formed the Remo Four Manley later recalled: "Paul left school in 1959 and would not consider any other job but playing music. Don and I went after jobs right away and it was only after a couple of years that we decided to pack it in. Paul didn't think like that at all - he

wanted to play and that was it." With the vocalist and guitarist Keith Stokes and the drummer Harry Prytherch, the Remos played around dance-halls and clubs on Merseyside. They are particularly remembered for their instrumentals and their green suits with shocking pink linings. Many Cavedwellers recall the Remo Four outclassing the Shadows one night in 1961 at the Cavern. "I can't dispute that." says Hank Marvin, "we had a bad night. The Remo Four were excellent and

a far better proposition than us." Manley was always experimenting with his sound. In 1959 he ordered a Bigsby tremolo arm from America which he attached to his Hofner Committee guitar in order to emulate Duane Eddy's twangy guitar. A year later he was entranced by the wahwah effects on Chet Atkins's "Boo Boo Stick Beat" and ordered a DeArmond foot-pedal. With these accourrements he could emulate an orchestra

playing "The James Bond Theme". In 1962 the Remo Four went fully professional for a tour of US airbases in France. The line-up changed to Manley, Andrew, Phil Rogers and Roy Dyke with two vocalists, Johnny Sandon (who left the Searchers to inin them) and Ellen Bee, who got engaged to six servicemen during the group's six months away.

By the time they returned to the UK the Beatles were becoming known nationally and the Remo Four quickly secured a contract with Pye Records. Manley played his new Fender Jaguar on "Lies" (1963). which he also wrote. He used the wah-wah footpedal on the B-side. "On the Horizon" - the first British record with this effect; it was followed by the Beatles' "I Need You".

The Remo Four were signed to Brian Epstein's NEMS organisation, working as backing musicians for Cilla Black and others. With Tommy Quickly they made the Top Thirty with "The Wild Side of Life" in 1964. Manley said of this period.

We used to go on with Tommy for a short spot just before the Beatles. We couldn't bear the music we were playing because the fans were in such a frenzy. They made almost the same noise for Tommy as they did for the Beatles. I could have played in a different key to everybody else and nobody would have noticed. John Lennon let me use his 12-string

Rickenbacker for the introduction to "The Wild Side of Life". When we fin-ished our spot, we'd come off and I'd give it back to him. I could tell by the look on his face that it was all too much for him. It was like being in the bird house of a zoo, greatly amplified.

Also in 1964, the Remo Four released a blistering version of "Peter Gunn". Duane Eddy commented, "It's absolutely wild and I loved it. It takes guts to play it without a sax!" Don Andrew left the Remo Four in 1965, and then the group were obliged to leave on tour. Manley recalled, NEMS was well-organised by show-business standards. We had itineraries and wage packets and botels were booked for us. After a couple of years, NEMS told us that we owed them some enormous sum of money - and we also owed back taxes. The only answer was

to go to Germany to work it off. Manley, Rogers and Dyke were joined by a keyboard player, Tony Ashton. They were very successful and experimented with extended jazz pieces at the Star-Club. Their jazz-rock album, Smile (1966), was ahead of its time and it was in Ger-

many that Manley discovered what could be described as "rock 'n' dole": "The Arbeitsamt was a government service which would arrange gigs for us. There was no middleman and tax was deducted at source. It was terrific." They returned to the UK in 1967 and were produced by George Harrison for the soundtrack of the film Wonderwall (1969). In 1998 a fine, unreleased track from the sessions, "In

the First Place", was found and issued. The Remo Four broke up with the advent of a splinter group, Ashton, Gardner and Dyke, who had a Top Ten hit with "The Resurrection Shuffle" (1973). Manley found work as a Dakota for Billy J. Kramer and a Blue Flame for Georgie Fame and spent some years with Clodagh

Rodgers and then Freddie Starr. For the past 15 years, he was a member of another 1960s Liverpool band, the Swinging Blue Jeans, who showcased his guitar wizardry. In 1992, he played a sensational version of "Sleepwalk" at a Remo Four reunion in Liverpool. In recent years,



Manley: wizardry Redferns

he had made a supreme effort to shed weight. The Blue Jeans' lead singer, Ray Ennis, commented, "He's leaving us inch by inch." Although very al Infantry Brigade, Malaya 1954-57; ill from cancer, he was able to see his daughter, Julia, performing recently in the musical Smokey Joe's Cofe. SPENCER LEIGH

Colin William Manley, guitarist: born Liverpool 16 April 1942; mar-

حكدًا من الأحل

FOR LECIL Travis Martin, a.k.a. Boxcar Willie, Saturday 14 April 1979 was a defining moment in his career. Handed a bare 15-minute slot at the 11th International Festival of Country Music at Wembley that Easter, the 47-

year-old Texan brought the bouse

down, propelling himself instantly toward a kind of superstardom. British country fans were at the time amongst the most conservative anywhere, favouring a traditionalism

rooted in the Forties and Fifties which seemed perfectly in tune with his style. His heroes - Jimmie Rodgers, Hank

Williams, Roy Acuff and Lefty Frizzell - were their heroes; his crowd-pleasing original numbers like "I Love the Sound of a Whistle" and the recitation "Papa's Old Pocket Watch" were firmly rooted

in the past; and his hobo persona too

evoked that earlier age. As a result he

became perhaps the most popular

country act on this side of the Atlantic,

a welcome buffer against the often

soupy MOR excesses then prevalent in

courtesy of a hobo he bad once seen on

a passing train; the man reminded him

of his friend and fellow performer Willie

Nelson. Boxcar Willie's stage attire

the overalls, jacket and battered hat

gave his live appearances an apt and

memorable visual aspect whilst his im-

itative train whistle itself became much

and often badly) imitated. The proud

owner of his own train museum, he later

became World Ambassador for the

Trains were in Lecil Martin's blood:

his fiddle-playing father worked the

railroads and the family lived in a wood-

en shack just feet from the tracks.

Years later, he would remember those

times in songs like "The Old Iron Trail".

He was exposed to the music of many

of the major country acts of that era

and found himself particularly drawn to

the discs of the man known as "The

Singing Brakeman", Jimmie Rodgers,

In 1942, aged only 10 years old, Martin

played the local bars and honky tonks,

sharing gigs with the great Lofty

Frizzell and even appearing on Dallas's

D Jamboree. But his success in the

also worked as a refrigerator salesman,

a bowling alley attendant and for many

years as a pilot with the US air force. Few of his British fans realised that his

an airman back in the Fifties when he

flew B-36s at Upper Hayford and

Performing as Marty Martin, he

Boxcar Willie's stage name came

much of the music.

Hobo Foundation.

made his radio début.

Burtonwood airbases.

WEDN ESDAY REVIEW

The Land and Inc.

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Section of the sectio

Sk pris masters and 19 international Salar of the salar masters in the field of 76. A splendidly consistent 6ix rated just 2,511 – clear fin place on 8/10. He was followed by Mihail Kobalija and Alexander Volzhin, who were also both unbeaten on 7.5, and Sergei Volkov on 7.

None of the five 2,600-plus players was in the top four though Vladimir Akopian from Rail. Armenia (rated 2,640), and Andrei Kharolov (2,600), were in the group of nine on 6.5.

Alexei Dreev (2000) Control of the state of the sta wins and four draws gave Pavel

the 10 who scored 6; while a pawn; his position imploded. 39 Re1 Kc7 CHARLES AND THE SECOND SECOND

Boxcar Willie



Boxcar Willie's crnwd-pleasing numbers and hobo persona evoked an earlier age

David Redfern

By 1960 he was again performing professionally, even appearing on his own daily television show in Lincoln, Nebraska, but it would be another 15 years before his transformation inlo Boxcar Willie; a personal and angry response to the influx into country music of middle-of-the-road acts like John Denver and Olivia Newton-John.

In 1977, whilst working at George Jones's Possum Hollow Club in Nashville, be was spotted by a Scottish promoter, Drew Taylor, who booked him for the first of four tours over the answer to the Grand Ole Opry, the Big next 18 months. It was on the strength of these that he was invited to perform music business proved erratic and be at Wembley in 1979.

Following his "sudden" rise to superstardom, Boxcar Willie became a regular visilor to these sbores and began to receive greater attention back home. His 1981 album King of the Road sold two million copies and "Ramblin" in My Sboes", a duet with Hank Williams Jnr from Williams's album The Pressure

Is On, made his name with the redneck crowd. He was among the nominees for the Country Music Association's Hori-20n Award that year and more importantly was invited to join the cast of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, thus fulfilling a lifelong dream. On its stage he performed alongside several of his idols, notably the Opry stalwart Ruy Acuff, and continued to appear there until quite recently. In 1985 he enjoyed an effective cameo as a jailbird hobo in the Patsy Cline biopic Sweet Dreams.

A series of best-selling albums. among them Last Train To Heaven (1982), for which he received a gold disc. continued to prove that there was a demand for traditional no frills country music, but paradoxically it was the emergence of new traditionalists like Randy Travis and the Sweethearts of the Rodeo in the mid-Eighties which was to see his music marginalised. They too looked back, but in a progressive way, managing to avoid the element of pastiche and a over-readiness to resort to cover versions which marked the poorest of Boxcar Willie's work. He continued to record but his albums, including Falling in Love 11988) and The Spirit of America 11991, were met with both critical and commercial indifference.

In 1987 he moved to Branson, Missouri, a small town in the Ozarks, which subsequently became something of an entertainment Mecca. Millions now flock annually to watch family-oriented shows by performers like Andy Williams, the Osmonds, Ray Stevens and Roy Clark. "Boxie" proved one of the lown's most durable and popular stars, often performing six or more shows a week in his own dinner-theatre.

PAUL WADEY

Lecil Travis Mortin (Boxcar Willie), country singer and songuriter; born Sterrett. Texas 1 September 1931; married (two doughters); died Branson, Missouri 12 April 1999.

MEDICAL NOTES

The plague has ended. After Aids, what next?

LIFE. WE are constantly reminded, is a risky business. A recent broadcast of Equinor proposed that we should make an accurate calculation of the risks in our everyday lives, and respond accordingly. The programme urged caution against prognostications of doom. Herein lies the paradox of risk: it is about danger and hazard, but equally in a free market economy! il concerns opportunity. Risk seduces us towards harm and achievement.

Social theorists explore the notion of the "risk society", with particular attention to it as a defining feature of late (largely urban) modernity: With the demise of traditional social and political institutions (lifelong married monogamy in the two-parent family, permanent jobs: the welfare state) we are thrus back on our own resources in determining the courses and meanings of our lives. We are ever having to make choices, rather than our cultures and histories

Two characteristic responses to the lack of modern role models are detected - a retreat into reinvented "traditional" forms, notably new religious fundamentalisms. and a variety of political defences of the family; or a creative move forward to pluralistic models of society. largely explored through ldentity politics and the new "direct action" movements.

which forcefully illustrates our current anxieties over social normlessness. It has been seen as a full stop to the permissiveness inherited from the Sixties, or even as a plague on those who stray from the normal and the good. It has made sex risky in unprecedented ways. More than any other contemporary phenomenon it has been made to symbolise a boundary between the acceptable and the unaccept-

able thebaviours, values.

individuals, communities). Yet, contrarily, it has been the rallying point for those who resist the normalisation desired by those seeking to reinvigorate tradition, a standpoint from which to argue passionately for social pluralism. In Britain it has been the locus of redefinition of the meaning, purpose, and, arguably, ethos of gay community. Other subordinate groups have followed in developing community organizations to lobby for and provide HIV/Aids prevention

determining these for us. and treatment services, African and women's groups notably. The emergency of dealing with Aids has forced these diverse constituencles to reflect on their values and the ways they treat people different from themselves. In this one sense Aids has been a force for the good.

It seems, as we enter the new millennium, that Aids

Regulatory functions

Aids is a phenomenon new combination antiviral therapies offer the possibility of its becoming a chronic rather than fatal syndrome. Andrew Sullivan bas confidently, though controversialdeclared that Aids, in the specific sense of a plague.

has ended. Questions remain. The efficacy of the new therapies in perpetuity is not proven they've only been available since 1996). There is evidence of a rise in the rate of new HIV infections among young gay men. In America. and now here, there is concern over the ohenomenon of "barebacking" (unprotected penetrative sex among gay men at sex-on-premises clubs). We are, none the less, at the end of a distinct historical moment.

What might follow? We fear new disease agents. such as prions (the cause of buman variant CJD). These may present risks, but they cannot carry the symbolic load Aids had. Aids specifically (and most strongly in the West linked despised sexuality with disease and death. Awfully, it linked a perceived decay, and decadence, of modern society with culprits. Such a specific set of associations is, statistically speaking, unlikely to recur. The risk, thankfully, is small.

Dr Philip Gotter is the author of Identity and Servality: Aids in Britoin may be losing its potency, in the 1990s' (Cassell, 15 clinical and social. The April, £15)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

BISHOP: Sir George Sidney, CB OBE, much loved and loving husband and companion of Una, dear father of Prudence and dear father of Prudence and proud grandfather of Martin, Philip, Alistair and Rowena, died peacefully on 9 April following a severe stroke. Cremation at 3.30pm, Friday 16 April, at the Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, and later, on a date to be announced, a reception in his memory at the Royal Geographical Society. Family flowers only, but a fund in his mame to encourage travel and exploration by young people will be established for those wishing to make a donation. An address for contributions will be published shortly.

shorty.

TUOHY: Oo 11 April 1999, Frank
Tuohy, writer, of a beart attack in
Shepton Mailet Hospital. Funeral at St Mary the Virgin, Yarlington, oo Monday 19 April at
12.45pm. Family flowers only,
donations if desired for The
Royal Literary Fund, c/o Harold
F. Miles. F.D., South Cadbury,
BA22 TES. (01963) 440857,
Memorial gathering in London
to be announced later.

ially lethal chess player under

The recent fourth stage of

the Russian Cup (annual

Grand Prix circuit) in Nov-

known players swarmed ahead

of the big names. The 10-round

Swiss, held 19-27 March, com-

prised no fewer than 27 grand-

practically every stone.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Dr N.E. Brook and Dr M.H. Annan The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brook, of Dork-ing, Surrey, and Mary, daughter on Mr and Mrs Robin Annan, of Scalby, North Yorkshire.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Patrick Brown, former Per-

maneot Secretary, Department of Transport, 59; Mr Roy Cameron, former Chief Consta-ble, Dumfries and Galloway, 52; Mr Ian Cawsey MP, 39; Miss Julie Christie, actress, 59; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, 68; Sir John Gielgud, actor, 95; Mr Gerry Gillman, former trade union leader, 72; Lord Hastings, farmer and for-mer government minister, 87; The Most Rev Dr David Hope, Archbishop of York, 59; Mr Julian Lloyd Webber, cellist, 48; Miss Loretta Lynn, country singer, 64; Mr Michael Maclagan, former Richmood Herald of Arms, 85; Colonel Sir

Lieulenant of Orkney 84. The Right Rev Michael Marshall, Priest in Charge, Holy Trinity, Sloane Street, 63; Baroness Masham of Ilton, 64; The Right Rev John Oliver, Bishop of Hereford, 64; Mr Patrick Ramsay, former Controller BBC Scotland, 73; The Right Rev Leslie Rees, Assistant Bishop, Winchesler, 80: Profes sor John Roberts, historian and former Warden, Merton College, Oxford, 71: The Vcn Raymond Roberts, former Chaplain of the Fleet, 68: Mr David Skipper, education coo-sultant, 68: Mr Rod Steiger, actor, 74: Dr Howard Stoate MP, 45: Barooess Symons of Vernham Dean, Parliamentary Under Secretary, Foreigo and Commonwealth Office, 48; Sir Peter Thompson, Life Presi-dent, NFC plc, 71; Mr George Walker, former chairman and chief executive, Brent Walker. 70; Baroness Warnock, former

ANNIVERSARIES

Mistress of Girton College,

Births: Christiaan Huygens, astronomer, physicist and math-ematician, 1629; Arnold Joseph Toynbee, historian, 1889; François Duvalier, Haitian dictator ("Papa Doc"), 1907.

Deaths: George Frederick Han-del, composer, violinist and organist 1759; Ernest Bevin. statesman and trade union leader, 1951; Simone de Beauvoir, writer and feminist, 1986. On this day: Abraham Lincoln 16th US President, was shot by the assassin John Wilkes Booth 1865; the first quintuplets in Scotland were born to Mrs Linda Bostock, of Armadale, West Lothian, 1972, Today is the Feast Day of Saints Antony. John and Eustage, St Ardalion. St Benezet, St Bernard of Tiron or Abbeville, St Caradoc, St John of Vilna, St Lambert of Lyons, Saints Tiburtius, Valerius and Maximus and the Martyrs of Lithuania, It is also the first day of the Sikh New

LECTURES

National Gallery: Alfons Lieven Dierick, "Van der Weyden tijn focused on van der Weyden", Ipni. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sibylle Luig, "Cassone and Birth Trays", 2pm. Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Professor Alastair Michell, "Only One Medicine areas of convergence and contrast between animal and human medicine - Gpm.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Ouke of Edinburgh gaves reception at Windsor Casile for inciders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association. The Puke of Edinburgh Patron, altends a dimer for Voluntary Services Overseas at Fragmere Bousa, Windsor, The Princess, Royal vists St. Amis Hospica, Luttle Balon, Manchester, as President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, visits the Boute 25 Mentioring Plus Project, Cheetham Manchester, and attends a comman at Manchester Emorrity's Reference, Building and visits Manchester I flugh School for Girls down their Listh anniversary year. The Duke of The Queen and The Ouke of Edin to r High School for Circs during their Listh analysis ary year The Duke of Kent, Pairon, Stroke As actation, attend the association's Centinary Year Inter-national Scientific Contenues at the Boyal College of Physicians, London

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Reg-ment mounts the Queen's Lafe Yuard a Horse Guards. Hom, F Company Scot Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11 again found proceeded by the Wolsh Guards

For Guzette BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS Births, Adoptions, Marriages Deaths, Memorial services. Wedding anoiversaries. In memorium), telephone 0171-2010; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

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not chargeable A PROFESSIONAL body carry-WEDNESDAY Lord Slynn said that there

ing out, under statutory authority a regulatory function which was essentially for the protection of the public, was not carrying on an economic activity which was chargeable to value added tax within the terms of section 4 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 and article 4 of the Sixth Council Directive 77/3881 (EEC) of 17 May 1977, notwithstanding that it received

fees for that activity. The House of Lords dismissed the appeal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales against the decision of the Court of Appeal that certain of its activities were not chargeable to VAT.

The institute claimed repayment or set-off of input tax paid on goods and services supplied to it in respect of certain of its functions for which fees were payable. Those functions arose:

i) under the Financial Services Act 1986 and the Financial Services Act 1986 (Delegation) Order 1987 (SI 1987/942), pursuant to which the institute was recognised as a body able to issue certificates of authorisation to its members so that they could carry on investment business;

ii) under the Companies Act 1989, pursuant to which the institute was recognised as a supervisory body in respect of company auditors; and iii under the Insolvency Act

1986. pursuant to which the instinised professional body with the power to grant or refuse, review or terminate liceoces to practise as an insolveocy practitioner and to investigate the activities of members.

Section 4 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 provided: "VAT shall be charged on any supply of goods or services made in the United Kingdom where il is a

nities. Ewatch is a firm

which monitors the many

aspects of digital commu-

This is a transformation

and suchlike.

LAW REPORT

14 APRIL 1999

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales v Commissioners of Customs and Excise House of Lords (Lord

Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick Lord Hoffmann, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton) 25 March 1999

taxable supply made by a taxable person in the course or furtherance of any business carried on by him." By article 2 of the Sixth

Council Directive 77/3881 (EEC) of 17 May 1977 "the supply of goods or services effected for consideration... by a taxable person acting as such" was subject to VAT, and by article 4(1) "taxable person" meant "any person who independently carries out in any place an economic activity specified in paragraph 121".

Article 4(2) provided: "The economic activities referred to in paragraph 111 shall comprise all activibes of producers. traders and persons supplying services, including ... activ-ities of the professions." Andrew Thornhill QC and Rupert Baldry QC (Denton Hall) for the Institute: Kenneth Parker QC and Melanie Hall (Solicitor

for HM Customs and Excise) for

was a difference in the wording of the 1994 Act, which referred to a "taxable supply made by a taxable person in the course or furtherance of any business carried on by him", and that of the Directive, which referred to the supply of services "effected for a consideration by a taxable person", a "taxable person" being a person who carried out any economic activity including the activities

of the professions".

The Act had, so far as possible, to be construed so as to give effect to the Directive. and so far as the Directive was concerned, the European Court of Justice bad orade it clear that it was not enough merely to point to the fact that there was a supply of services in return for a money payment and some loose economic connection, but that the activities must be of au "economic character".

In the present case, the institute was carrying out on behalf of the State a regulatory function in each of the three financial areas in question to ensure that only fit and proper persons were licensed or authorised to carry out the various activities, and to monitor what they did.

That was essentially a function of the State for the protection of the actual or polential investor, trader and shareholder. It was not in any real sense a trading or commercial activity which might justify it being described as "economic", and the fact that fees were charged for the granting of the licences did not convert it into ooe.

KATE O'HANLON. Barrister

CHESS

Robert Macrae, former Lord-

IN THE old Soviet Union, if the Ildar Ibragimov (2,603) made 5.5 and poor Alexander Nenastories are true, there used to be an unknown and potent-

shev (Uzbekistan, 2.616) just 5. To beat a player rated well over 100 points more than you as Black, you usually need the run of play; this the tournament winner certainly got in this penultimate round encounter.

gorod showed that Russian -4 ... Ng8!? - rather than 4 and Kazakh - stones, too, are magical, as a horde of lesser-...Nd7 - is provocative. Dreev got a powerful position with a strong queenside majority and, after ... f5, pressure against e6. The exchange sacrifice 20 Rxd7!? was quite consequent though then the immediate 21 Rd1+ was much simpler. Unfortunately for White, if

22 Rd1+ Kc8 23 Bxe6+? Rxe6 16 b4 f5 24 Nxe6 Re8 wins material. Kotsur defended with 22 ...Bxc3 and 23 ...Rh6! but White still had enough for the exchange which he could have 21 Bc4?! Rce8 51 Nxe5 Rd4+ regained with 32 bxa6!? bxa6 33 22 Bf2 Bxc3! 52 Ka3 Nc5 Ba4! though e5 34 Bxd7 Kxd7 23 Kxc3 Rh6! isn't too clear. But only with 35 24 h4 Nfd8 Ra1? did Dreev get into trouble 25 Rd1 + Kc8 -35 Nc5 Nb7 36 Nx26+ Kc8 37 26 b5 Ne5 Nb4 Rxa5 38 Nxc6 looks fine. After 36 ... N8b7! 37 Nxa6+ Kac White couldn't defend the 29 a4 Rd7

White: Alexei Dreev Black: Pavel Kotsur Pirc Defence

31 a5 a6

1 d4 d6

2 e4 Nf6 32 c6 bxc6 3 £3 d5 33 b6+ Kb8 4 e5 Ng8!? 34 Nd3 Rd5! 5 c4 dxc4 6 Bxc4 e6 7 Ne2 Ne7 8 Be3 c5 9 dxc5 Oxd1+ 39 Nb4 Rc5+ 10 Kxd1 Nd7 40 Kb3 Nxa5+ 11 Bb5 Nc6 12 Nbc3 Ndxe5 42 Kb3 Ra5 13 Kc2 Bd7 14 Rbd1 Rc8 15 a3 Be7 46 Kb4 f4 17 Kb3 Bf8 18 Nf4 h5 19 Rd6 Nf7 20 Rxd7!? Kxd7 50 Kb4 Rd6 27 Bb3 Nef7 28 Bc2 Re7

35 Ra1 Nc6 36 Nc3 N8b7 37 Nx26+ Kc8 38 Bg3 e5 41 Ka4 Nac4 43 Rxa5 Nxa5+ 44 Ka4 Nac4 45 Nxc6 Nxb6+ 47 B/2 Nd5+ 48 Kc5 Ne3 49 Ra4 Nb7+ 53 Bb3 Rd2 54 Bc1 Re2 55 Bc3 Nxb3 56 Kxb3 Nxg2 57 Ngc Re3 58 Kc4 Rxf3 59 Bxg7 Ne3+ WITH TWO or even three suits in which it was necessary to develop tricks, the best sequence of play was not easy to determine here. One thing was cer-

tain, however: the line chosen by South was flawed. South opened 1 no-trumps (15-17 points); North raised directly to game. West led . 4 against 3 no-trumps: East look his ace and returned "9 lu South's king. Declarer took an immediate club finesse; East won and cleared the hearts Now South could take three clubs, two hearts and Iwo spades but not come to a second winner in diamonds withoul losing five tricks.

South was surely wrong to take this early club finesse li the finesse is right there will always be four tricks in the suit. Also, il was wrong to give East the chance of cleaning hearts while West still had an entry. Finally, if the diamonds behave favourably, the club finesse may not be needed. The best line would have

nine if East goes in with & J. South comes to three diamond mcks and does not need the clubs If East plays low . 9 wins and with an extra diamond trick. South can develop clubs safely (though if a club finesse wins now, it should not be represed in case East has cunningly allowed #J to win; the spade tricks should be develbeen to cross to A at trick 3 oped). If the finesse of 49 loses to the jack, South falls and lead a low diamond with 60 Kd4 Rg3 0-1 the injention of finessing the leack on the club finesse.

TECHNOLOGY CHANGES WORDS but human nature remains the same; which makes **CHRISTOPHER** for new business opportu-

the Commissioners.

HAWTREE scuttlebutt, n.

nicatinn and reports upon any scuttlebutt about its clients in chat-rooms

from the pure to the foul. In the 19th century, a scuttlebutt was a cask with a hole cut in it, origins obscure and distinct from coal-scuttle

ecoutille, hatchway. On deck it held fresb water. In crossing the Atlantic, however, it gained a new connotation gossip exchanged over the scuttlebutt, akin to chat by the picklebarrow. We can perhaps anticipate a time when Ewatch inuts a service of monitoring any subversive water-cooler?

but similar to the French

to watch. How would you convert

You ask the questions

(Such as: Ian Botham, are you walking the London Marathon because you are not fit enough to run it?)

an Botham was born in 1955 in Heswall, Cheshire. He made his Test debut in 1977 and is famous for his match-winning performances in the 1981 Ashes series. He captained England in 1980. This autumn he will walk from John O'Groats to Land's End to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund (0171-405 0101 for donations). As preparation he will speed-walk the London Marathon on Sunday.

Who do you think is currently the world's best all-rounder?

David Hasell, Thames Ditton There aren't many good all-rounders nowadays, hut I think Steve Waugh is probably the best in the world. He is howling again after injury, and he is definitely the world's number one with the bat. Sean Pollock also has the potential to be the world's best all-rounder. His cricket gets better week hy week.

Do you think that the introduction of two leagues in county cricket will produce better results at international level?

Susan Nicholls, Birmingham I certainly do. And I think it is something that's long overdue if we are to improve our game. It should have happened 12 years ago.

Lennox Lewis described you as one of his sporting heroes. Who is your greatest hero, and why? Patrick Lark, London SE11 Jack Nicklaus. To achieve what he has done is amazing. He is the greatest golfer of all time.

Please recommend a red wine K Quinn, Kingston upon Thames

A Geoff Merril cabernet from Australia, or a Spanish rioja. I find cricket a very boring game

me so that I found it more fun? Sarah Tusker, Chatham I would try to educate you in the rules of the game. Most people who don't enjoy cricket don't understand how it is played.



Do you think your son, Liam, chose to play rugby as he couldn't compete with you in cricket?

Mrs Alison Wilson, Reading It's not a question of whether Liam can compete with me or not. He ceed in cricket, as he would always have been compared to me. It has happened to lots of other sporting fathers and their sons. I am glad he has chosen to play rugby and be is doing very well at it.

What do you think are your best and your worst characteristics? Ian Littler, Walford I don't suffer fools very well. I'm bas-

would not have been given the chance by the British media to suc-

ically intolerant. But I think that I can be very generous, which is probably my best characteristic

You once said something to the

a life of crime. Do you still feel that this was the case? If so, what would your crime have been? KM Thomson, Basingstoke

I think it was probably a figure of Do you ever deliberately go out of Are you walking the London effect that ericket saved you from speech and not meant seriously. I

don't think I would have turned to crime had I not played cricket. I would have played football instead.

your way to irritate people? Nicola Yates. Coventry Yes I do, if I think they deserve it.

Now Bob Woolmer's contract with South Africa is up, do you think he is the man to replace David Lloyd as England manager? Susan Nicholls, Birmingham Absolutely. He's the first person I

reputation when you were young? Harry Faulder, Ipswich I'd say he was having a great time.

Who was the best you played against in your Test career? K Quinn, Kingston-upon-Thomes Viv Richards. He's arguably the best player that ever lived.

Why have you chosen to support the Leukaemia Research Fund? Zoe Stephens, Weymouth

My involvement began about 15 years ago, when I was visiting children in a hospital in Taunton. Some of the children only had a short time to live. Nothing quite prepares you for sitting down with a child you know is going to die. It makes you think of your own children and how you might cope with such a devastating loss. There is a feeling of utter helplessness. But then I realised there was something I could do: I could raise money for research.

What was your wife's reaction to your book, Don't Tell Cath. Do you have many secrets from her? Caroline Morris. Wiltshire It was Cath's idea to write the book. We don't have any secrets from

each other. I asked her to proof-read

Do yon see Phil Tufnell as the bad boy of cricket nowadays?

my book, chapter by chapter.

Jeffrey Duckett, Derby I think Tufnell is a talent that has not been fulfilled to potential. I think it was a major mistake not taking him to Australia this winter. He's the best left-arm spinner in the country.

Marathon because you are not fit enough to run it? Bob Threader, Norwich

If you would like to join me to walk for five hours at five miles an hour you are very welcome. What job would you ideally like

to have in the English cricket establishment? That's a hypothetical question as I have a long-term contract with Sky What would you do if you found TV. I would like to get more involved

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

BT CALL MINDER BY JAMES MCNAIR



words which conjure up an image of a beneficent helper who polices your incoming calls with conscientious rigour. In theory, BT's digital answering service should provide easy access to your messages via one-word verbal cues. The truth, I've found, is that the virtual secretary who mans this service is a fickle person

whose ears need syringing. "You have two messages would you like to hear them?" she intones with antomaton coolness. I would, of course, so I pronounce the requisite "yes", taking care to enunciate clearly. (Oversibilant consonants can play havoc.) "Message received at 15.21 today," she continues. Would you like to play that message?

I spit another "Yes", and there's a pregnant pause. four or five seconds of ambient crackle which I've come to associate with cobweb-blasting synapses in Ms Minder's pea-sized brain. "You have now reviewed your call options," she eventually states, ignoring my request.

I think it might be my accent. I've noticed that she seems to get on well enough with my English flatmate. My own more guttural, Scottish tones seem to bring out the political prisoner in her.

Recently, while away, I tried to access my messages using our unique four-digit Call Minder code. We'd recently been given a new code for security purposes. and when I tried to check in using the old one, I was denied access. On my return, Call Minder informed me that someone had tried to pick up our messages using the wrong code. "That'll be me." I thought. I suppose I should have been grateful, but something in the smugness of her tone annoyed me.

KENNETH CLARKE, FOLLOWED BY DAVID BAILEY



SEND QUESTIONS for the Tory Europhile Kenneth Clarke and fashion photographer David Bailey to: You Ask the Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182. or e-mail yourquestions@independent. co.uk), by 12 noon on Friday 16 April

NEXT WEEK



portance: c-a-s-h.

lawyer include:

accustomed.

settlement you hope to win.

5. Coerce your husband into

giving you a lump sum, which

you can then set aside, the

better to fund your divorce

later if you have no independent

assets with which to hire a

set up a series of meetings with

top divorce lawyers. Once you

have paid for their time, con-

fidentiality clauses will pre-

vent them from being able to

larly bearing in mind that this

plan of action is to be set in

motion before your husband

has even started slavering over

the hired help or entertaining

All charming stuff, particu-

represent your spouse.

6. Hold a "beauty parade":

legal Rottweiler.

would approach.

that your son was living up to your with selection of teams, though.

For richer and richer

Modern marriage is supposed to be a match of equals, so how come rich wives are scheming to take the money and run? By Hettie Judah

WIN ONE OF 250 PAIRS IN THE world of increasingly equal opportunities, if you want OF TICKETS TO BBC to have a really spectacular divorce you're still better off going to Belgravia. The super-rich **FASHION WEEK LIVE** hitches' fascination with the marital departure lounge is hardly surprising, given that it is a drama almost totally concerned with the one thing that You can read about it, you can see it on TV, but London Fashion Week gives them identity and im-

the highlight of the fashion calendar, has always been inaccessible to all but a select few. Now everyone can experience the glamour and excitement of Fashion Week, with the launch of BBC Fashion Week Live, at Wembley Conference Centre and Arena, London from 22 - 25 April 1999.

FASHION WEEK LIVE

22-25 APRIL 1999 WEMBLEY LONDON:

See designs of the world's leading fashion designers, including Alexander

McQueen, Vivienne Westwood, Pearce Fionda, Jasper Conran and Hussein

Buy the latest styles from over 100 of the top menswear and womenswear

collections, All Saints, Mulberry, InWear, Pepe Jeans Denim Deluxe,

Debenhams, Reebok, Antoni & Alison and Alexander Campbell.

The Vidal Sassoon team, BBC Looking Good, Daniel Field and Andrew Collinge will all be on site as well as the hottest beauty products available today.

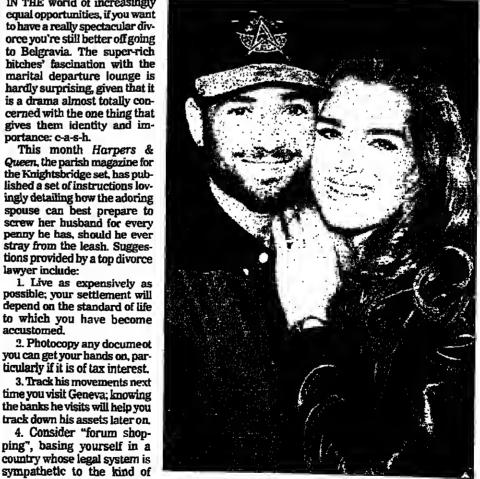
Not forgetting

Celebraties, Search for a Model Competitions, Giveaways and much more

The first 250 Independent or Independent on Sunday readers who call the ticket hotline will win a pair of tickets to BBC Fashion Week Live. Callers must state that they are Independent readers to win. If you are not one of the lucky ones you can book your tickets (£15 plus a £1 booking fee) for this unique experience, or for more information.

CALL THE TICKET HOTLINE ON 0870 732 2020

The British Heart Foundation, the UK's leading heart charity, will be collecting nearly - new donations of clothing from visitors. Look out for the carrier bag with your tickets, for more details.



Andre and Brooke: did they budget for a split?

your best friend to hreakfast. To illustrate the necessity of subterfuge, Hnrpers cites the example of Victoria, former wife of Earl Spencer, who is suing her previous legal firm for negligence. She is claiming that bad she sued for divorce in England instead of Cape Town. she could have won a considerably larger settlement. Le beau monde is also shuddering at the ordeals of Jerry Hall, who approached ber divorce so under-prepared that Mick Jagger even managed to cast

doubt on whether they were married at all. These two women are ex-

ceptional cases, both of whom suffered considerable psychological torment. It is all very well advising them after the act. but it is obvious that neither woman indulged in cynical subterfuge precisely because they were trying to make their marriages work, and they should be applauded for it, however illadvised their actions may seem in retrospect.

Given the brevity of the marriage between Andre Agassi and Brooke Shields, even though the couple maintain that they are still good friends. it is not impossible that some form of prenuptial divorce

preparation took place. That Horpers & Queen magazine should consider printing such advice casts the role of modern marriage into confusion. The obeisance of Sophie Rhys-Jones aside, the whole Mr and Mrs game is now generally seen as a proper working partnership. Perhaps stimulated by the debate over the special financial needs of single mothers, attitudes toward oldfashioned gender roles have relaxed somewhat in the last few years, and now looking after children, running the home, and oiling the wheels of a spouse's career are again seen as an acceptable life choice for a wife or busband. And God forhid anyone who accuses you of not working.

14 m

Facility For

But if marriage is to he conducted as a business partnership, it seems insane for one of the partners to be investing his or her energy in planning for its destruction. In the real business world it would be absolutely unacceptable to stitch someone up in this manner; not only does it indicate a terminal lack of trust in the partnership, but it is quite simply bad business practice. Nowhere, outside a marriage, will people take all the money and run from a partnership, knowing full well that that meant never being able to work - or, indeed, get married - sgain. Such behaviour is a throwback to the bad old world where girls didn't have the mouth, education or opportu-

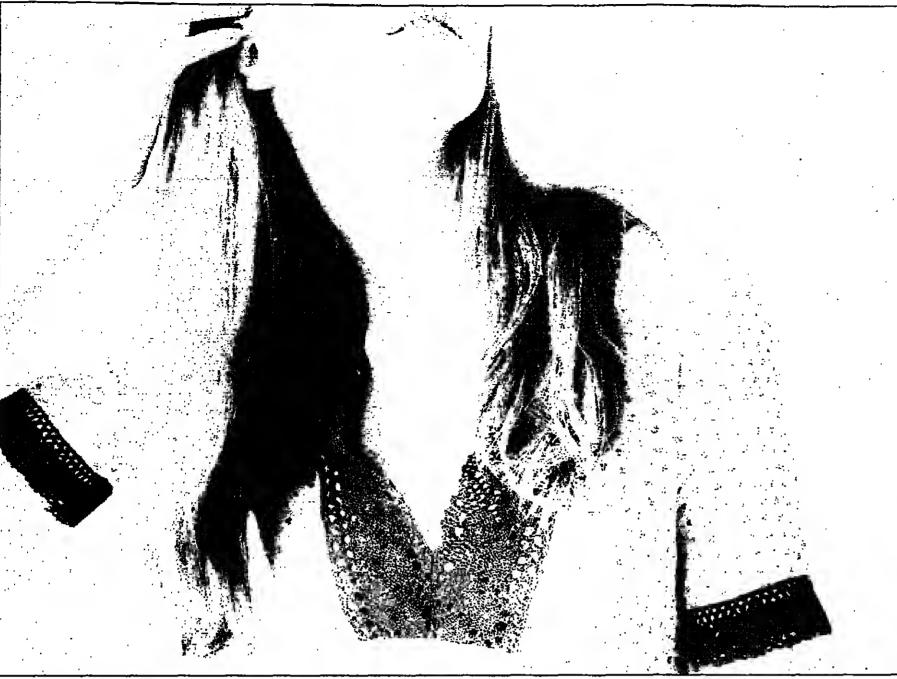
nity to earn themselves a living. Their aptitude for the great divorce marks out the world of the super-rich as the last true repository of Stone Age gender stereotyping, whereby women will still go all out to separate a blonde-loving fool from his money as swiftly as possible, and where, accordingly, men still have cause to believe the worst kind of misogynistic stereotype, that of a lying, cheating wife who is after only

VEDNESDAY REVIEW

hand and can play

ils. Su non come rid

33. Mottie Judah



Pale blue heart-print dress, £45, by Tracey Boyd for TS Design at Top Shop. 214 Oxford Street. London W1, and stores nationwide, enquiries 0800 731 8284

It's quality. It's designer. And it's yours for £45

High fashion and high street shops: a marriage for all seasons? By Susannah Frankel

year Hussein Chalayan is not a man whose name is obviously associated with the Great British high street. One of our most rigorous and uncompromising talents, he is known for offering up innovative and modern designs to the highest production standards - and with prices to match. No Lycra-mix, canary yellow crop top and botpants combination from this particular designer, thank you.

This summer, however, and for the second season running, Chalayan's work will be available at a high street store near you - at Top Shop, to be precise - along with work by Sherald Lamden (the creative talent behind the Scraph label), Tracey Boyd (think pretty, eclectic Londongirl good looks) and London's most feted design duo, Clements Ribeiro. Attracting names such as these is quite a coup: all four designers are perceived as directional; all are also limited to small production runs catering to a fashion-knowledge-

Such designer/high street linkups are by now an integral part of this country's fashion infrastructure, however. Without the help of the UK's second largest retailer, Arcadia - the company that owns Top Shop as well as Principles, Racing Green, Evans, and Dorothy Perkins

be able to afford to show. The money they receive for producing capsule collections for the high street, as well as more set aside by Top Shop specifically to sponsor their own twice-yearly collections, helps them to do so.

For Arcadia, meanwhile, the press coverage that such high-pro-file relationships has by now generated has been worth more than its weight in gold. Not only are designers' names flagged up in-store, earning the chain serious fashion Brownie points, but the Top Shop logo is also very much in evidence at each designer's sbow, too.

Fashion supporting fashion in this way can, of course, only be a good thing for the consumer. There are very few women, after all, who are willing, or indeed able, to part with hundreds of pounds of their hard-earned cash for designer garments. TS Design - and other designer/high street collaborations like it - at least allows them to buy into the concept.

Jane Shepherdson, brand director at Top Shop, is the woman who oversees the buying and merchandising of TS Design, started in 1997 with Chalayan and Lamden: Clements Ribeiro and Tracey Boyd are new this season.

"We are very keen to link up with designers like these," Shepherdson explains. "In terms of Top Shop's credibility, it takes us way for-

ward." She acknowledges, however, that an awful lot of time and energy has gone into the project so far. Where designer clothing is concerned, money, within reason, is no object. For the high street, producing commercial designs, and to a budget, is all important.

There's been an awful lot of toing and froing," Shepherdson admits, "but we got through it. It's a learning process for both sides and the first ranges in particular took longer than they should have done."

'In terms of Top Shop's credibility, this idea takes us way forward'

It has been a costly, if rewarding, business. For this reason, the TS designer ranges are still around 20 per cent more expensive than the majority of Top Shop merchandise, although they remain far cheaper than the designers' own ranges.

cio Ribeiro, one part of the Clements Ribeiro team. Clements Ribeiro formerly designed for Dorothy Perkins but, by mutual agreement, have moved this season to Top Shop. "The press were shooting our

clothes and wearing them when we were at Dorothy Perkins, which was great," he says, but the customer didn't seem to get it." At Top Shop, a mainly teenage clientele with its finger firmly on fashion's pulse will have no such trouble.

It wasn't until the early-Nineties.

and in response to a post-Eighties design-literate consumer, that the high street saw the potential of designer link-ups. The concept goes back to the Sixties and Geoffrey Wallis, however, who made a name for himself by selling more Chanel suits than most of us have had hot dinners. These were copies of the originals that inspired them, of course. but copies with a difference. Firstly they were made up directly from patterns bought from the Chanel haute couture atelier in Paris. Secondly, Coco Chanel herself, whose great contribution was perhaps to rid designer fashion of its fussiness and over-elitist approach, took the time to travel to London to help out

the look together. In this, as in many things. Madame Chanel was ahead of her time. Today, it's hardly news that without the designer collections there would be no high street. "It was a struggle," agrees igna-Chanel realised it would be better for her, Wallis, and the consumer if there was a dialogue between the two and money changed hands.

If this seems only natural, it's not insignificant that it has taken almost 30 years for designer/high street link-

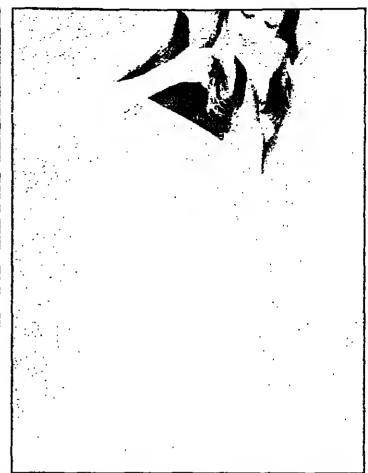
ups to exist on a more widespread basis. That is mainly because British retailing is unusual in that it is dominated by high-street chains (a massive 70 per cent) and a public that has until very recently fixated on low-priced merchandise.

Despite resistance, however, collaborations now exist at Decenhams (where Jasper Conran. Philip Treacy and Lulu Guinness among others design ranges). Marks & Spencer (M&S have been working with Ghost's Tanya Sarne. Betty Jackson, Paul Smith and more for years), and Bhs (Owen Gaster and Paul Frith produce small out perfeetly formed ranges for the store).

is there not a danger, though, that with designer's producing collec-tions on the cheap they will detract from their own far more expensive main lines? "I'm not doing sub-Seragh at a lower price for Top Shop." says Seraph's Sherald Lamden. "The collection is far younger than that, it's also very simple - anything

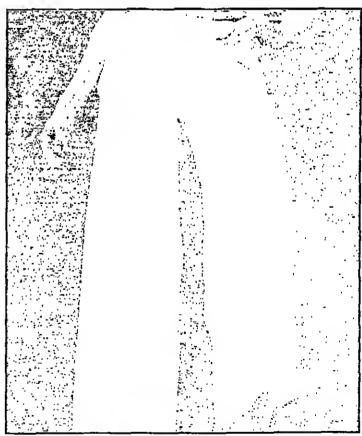
ton subtle gets lost in production." Ribeiro agrees. "We're very carefut not to let the range overlag with our own collection, but we have no prejudice against the high street. Sometimes the price of designer clothes is quite sickening. This works for them and it works for us."

Tracen Bend for TS Design is ovailable now. Hussein Chalayan. Clements Ribeiro and Seraph for TS Design are avoilable from May

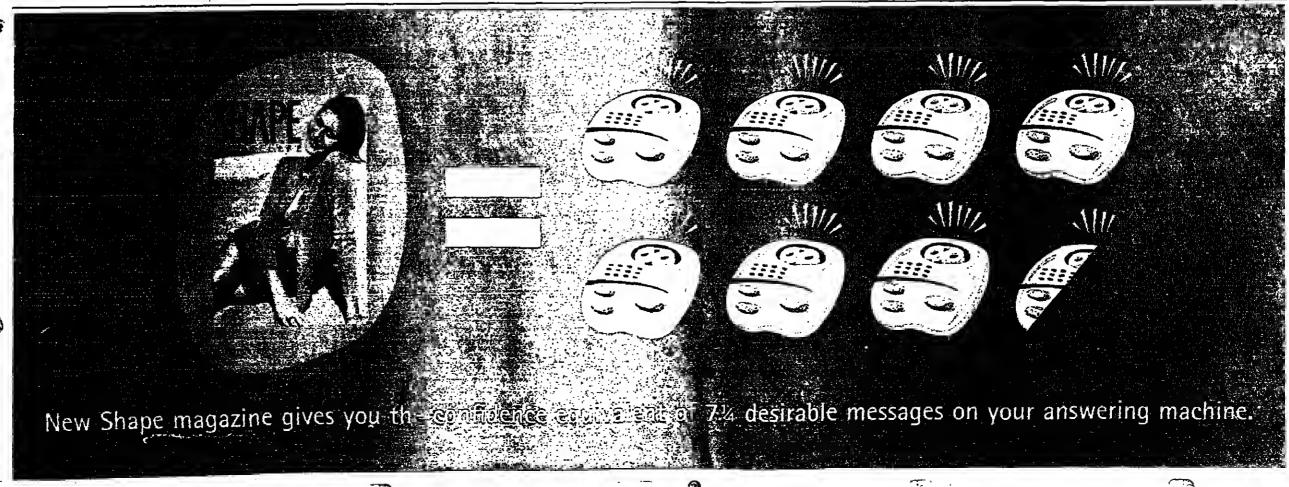


Green-and-yellow stripe jersey vest, £20; white linen pleated skirt, £45, both by Clements Ribeiro for TS Design





White denim wide-leg trousers with frayed hems, £15, by Sherald Lamden for TS Design Photographs: Mauricio Guillen



Last Sunday she won the Bafta Best Actress Award, on Friday her new film, An Ideal Husband, opens and in a fortnight she makes her West End stage debut. And that's just the beginning. David Benedict spoke to the very popular Cate Blanchett

What Cate did next

he tech is going to be a nightmare," announces Cate Blanchett in her best horror voiceover manner. In the final week of a production everyone moves from rehearsal room into the theatre and actors become the least important people on a show. Weeks of detailed exploration and the huilding of tension and atmosphere within a play are temporarily cast aside. The cast are merely required to walk through their positions on stage and say the lines at the right speed while the director slowly and methodically takes the crew through

every single lighting state and sound cue. Technical run-throughs are laborious, long-winded and actors bate them. Not Blanchett. "I love the freedom of the tech. It actually liberates you, you feel unwatched. I'm really looking forward to it," she cries, greedily. It's hardly surprising that she's relishing the prospect of having a couple of days to experiment with the role.

The play in question is Plenty, written in 1978 and unquestionably one of David Hare's two or three finest, and her character Susan Traherne - originally written for Hare's then muse, Kate Nelligan barely leaves the stage. Bar a three-week run in an Australian play at the Croydon Warehouse a few years back, Blanchett is an unknown quantity in terms of the British stage. Casting her represents a leap of faith by the Almeida's director, Jonathan Kent, but then that's what this 29-year-old actress inspires.

The film director Gillian Armstrong had been searching for six years for an actress to play the lead in Oscar and Lucinda - Blanchett did a screen test and Armstrong stopped looking. Anthony Minghella saw the finished movie and immediately cast her in his film The Talented Mr Ripley. The character has just two scenes at either end of the picture, but he knew he wanted her. Temporarily nonplussed by heing asked exactly what it was about her that so impressed him, Minghella casts about for a reason. "It sounds ridiculous, but it's quite simple: if you have the chance to work with talent like that, you do."

If you add in the news that there are other films in the can, including Pushing Tin, Mike Newell's tale of rival air-traffic controllers, in which she does white-trash comedy in tight trousers, hig hair and a push-up hra as Mrs John Cusack, and the headlines are pretty clear. Cate Blanchett has arrived.

on Sunday night when, after losing out to Gwyneth Paltrow at the Oscars and the Golden Globes, she finally received her just deserts with Bafta voting her Best Actress for Elizabeth. Other rising stars in her position would have headed off for poolside Hollywood, which might lead some people - possibly including her agent - to wonder what on earth she's doing picking up a company wage in a play in London.

I never thought that film was somehow making it'. Film-making can sometimes be a little clean, clinical. I like the church hall feel of rehearsals, getting my hands dirty. The other day, on my way to rehearsals, I walked past Sadler's Wells and watched the trucks unloading the scenery through the dock doors. The atmosphere that comes out at you is magical."

This is not the contrived gushing of an actress suddenly determined to grab the kudos of the theatre. She was on stage for 18 months playing Nina in The Seagull at Belvoir Street theatre, home to Company B. Sydney's most exciting theatre company. she says that's surprising, it's the way she makes her so mesmerising on screen.



Cate Blanchett in 'Plenty' at the Almeida: 'I like the feel of rehearsals, of getting my hands dirty'

Even at drama school, she made waves, her bold choices supported by a self-possession borne out of a solid technique.

Watching her in Elizabeth, the shock is how instantaneously you believe this Australian actress to be Tudor royalty. Meeting her in the flesh, she seems slighter, with an almost fleeting sense of presence. And then she opens her mouth. It's not what

says it. The voice is low and calm, offsetting the fragility of her complexion. Light streams in through the window catching the shifting planes of her face. Braque would have envied the lines of her cheekbones and jawline, but there's nothing cold or chiselled about her look. It's merely that there's an elegance about her which comes from quiet self-possession, which is what

seems taller than she is because her centre of gravity is so low. It's all about relaxation. All of which comes in useful when playing high-status roles such as the Queen of England or Lady Chiltern in actors, when asked about their choice of a weak actor in front of the lens and they'll

Even when watching her in close-up, she opportunity it was, or how much they wanted to work with so-and-so. Blanchett's reason for doing this film? "I was really interested to see if such heightened dialogue could be played naturalistically." Nothing is more illuminating about Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband, her lat- both the qualities and the quality of a screen est film, which is released on Friday. Most actor than watching her or him "think". Put

brow, confusion with a tilt of the head, doubt with a widening of the eyes. If the edits surrounding such displays are strong enough this empty acting style can prove effective.

However, watching Blanchett play the complex comedy at the climax of An Ideal Husband is something else altogether She's the focus of a scene in which everyone brings in fresh revelations, forcing her to revise her opinions and think very fast.
But instead of opting for a simple external approach, she takes the much more exciting (and exacting) choice of presenting an impassive exterior while managing to convey Lady Mabel's inner turnoil as she is forced to compromise her ideals and lie to her husband. No wonder the camera holds her in tight close up, her eyes darting about in disguised terror. This is not "thinking" acting: Blanchett is responding to what is happening inside her character.

Actors are often castigated for supposediy airy talk about being "in the moment", but that's precisely where Blanchett's characters live. You never get the sense that she's trying to impress by showing off how she can achieve an effect. In career terms, she's disgracefully clear-headed about the thorny issue of reading (and believing) your own press. Does she read the ever increasing mountain of press coverage? She sighs. "I try not to... hut as someone said to me, 'trying is lying'. Of course, it's fan-tastic if you get great reviews but they're like lotteries: they're great if you win and a terrible sham if you lose. People tell me not to be self-deprecating but I think I have to gloss over the good in the same way that

I have to gloss over the bad.

"The great thing about Plenty is that there is a genuine amount of trust within the company. We're all trying to do something together," she insists, observing that the play is as much about her husband's character - played by Julian Wadham - as it is about her own, "Whether we succeed or not, we can't tell. You can't plan for success, of course, but equally you also don't want to plan for failure by not taking risks and not opening up things which you worry you might fall flat on your face for doing." She beams. "That void you feel opening up beneath you... I find that quite exciting."

She apologises - unnecessarily - for being inarticulate, but the only point on which she's truly vague is the future. Her agent is bemused by the fact that she's barely half-way through a hot script she's had for more than over two weeks. "It takes me so long to decide. I need time to digest things. There's a lot of stuff out there, I guess, but I find it too disappointing when I feel I'm in things for the wrong reasons. Luckily it's only happened to me once or twice. So I'd rather wait."

In the meantime, she's done a runthrough of Plenty in front of David Hare, which makes the press night seem less daunting. Her only real frustrations at the moment are the expectations of the world from which she's made a temporary escape. "I get very frustrated with the fact that in film people are still very surprised if women my age can do something other than what they look like they can do. I knew after The Seagull that I really wanted to do something where people can demand a lot of me, push me beyond where I think I can go. I love being directed. I don't take it personally if someone says, 'Oh, I didn't like that'. It makes you search more. Maybe that's why I continue to do this."

1,000

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Plenty' previews at the Albery Theatre (0171-369 1730) from tomorrow; An Ideal roles, will tell you what a great part or display puzzlement with, say, a furrowed Husband' opens on Friday

Voices from another world The sour turns to sweet

THERE IS no raucous crowing from Chanticleer. The occasional hilling and cooing, perhaps. Yet the singing of the 12-man San Francisco-based vocal ensemble, which has just embarked on its latest tour of France, Germany, Austria and Israel, is, as the late songsmith Harold Arlen might have put it,

quite simply "Out of this world". Its publicity is gloriously unhyped, its delivery intimate and inspired, and its presentation never unctuous or overslick. But Chanticleer invites superlatives. During its 21 years of existence, and with as many discs to its credit, it has most subtle, refined, intelligent and invigorating o capella choirs. Its top line – high-riding counter-tenors who effortlessly encompass the upper soprano range - partly justments in the Brazilian José er Bernard Rands (b 1934) ded-

CLASSICAL CHANTICLEER SYMPHONY HALL

BIRMINGHAM

accounts for its unique sound. Yet the ensemble's hlending never cramps or obscures the distinctive colouring of the in-

The group's repertoire is wide, spanning from European (Morales, Josquin, Brumel, Palestrina) and Mexican renaissance to Stephen Foster gospel, spirituals and contemporary American, including a clutch of specially commisemerged as one of the world's sioned works, three of which proved highlights of Chanticleer's Sunday concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall - only their third in Britain to date.

If the stylish, dynamic ad-

ingenuous simplicity of Farrant's "Call to Remembrance" proved more alluring than some rather straitjacketed Byrd and Weelkes, it was the 20th-century extracts which fired the imagination: the Chinese-born Chen Yi's "Wild Grass", with its folklike filigree dividual, underlying solo voices. of spiralling and weaving repeated upper voice patterns (shades of Meredith Monk); two extracts from Augusta Read Thomas's 12-part Love Songs - one ("The Rub of Love") a pithy, short Anacreontic, the other ("Alas, the love

Garcia's "Crux Fidelis" or the

strumming and ironic cackles. It was to Read Thomas that the US-based. British-horn Pulitzer prizewinning compos-

of women!") a wittily contrived

parody encompassing cluster-

ing close-harmonies, vocal

icated his Canti d'Amor, 15 beautifully evocative settings of Yeats, including two sung here with rare empathy, poise and subtlety of shading: "All day I hear the noise of waters making moan" and the solo-led "Sleep now".

Matthew Alber's fluent, gorgeously sustained soprano solo brought a nerve-tingling poignancy to "Sometimes I feel like a motherless child", one of the three spirituals arranged by Joseph Jennings, Chanticleer's enabling music director of 15 years. Tim Krol's colourful Gaelic delivery of the Irish encore "Dulaman" ("Seaweed") supplied the final icing on the cake.

RODERIC DUNNETT

Chanticleer's new CD, 'The Colors of Love', has just been

IN THE Cranberries' press, one catechismal fact stands out: unlike Oasis, unlike Blur even, the provincial Irish fourpiece, led by Dolores O'Riordan, cracked the States. Forget O'Riordan's voice (a formidable instrument blighted by the tonal ambition of a car alarm or the persistently clod-hopping "political" commentary (no

Kosovo anthem yet, thankfully) - all sins are absolved by the balm of US success. Criticism, in other words, is redundant when the band's three albums thus far have notched up global sales of 28 million. The eve of their new aihum, Bury the Hatchet, finds The

Cranberries trying to re-create the circumstances that gave birth to "Linger", their sublime, liting breakthrough hit which they've never come close to surpassing. Since a gruelling tour schedule led to their effective break-up three years ago, O'Riordan has had a baby and retreated, along with the rest of the band, to the group's home town, Limerick. It shows on Bury the Hatchet. Though they're far from rediscovering the alchemical touch that graced the Celt-pop of their 1992 debut album, Everybody's home in the group's more lyri-Doing It, So Why Can't We?, at cal songs. "Promises", their lat-

POP

THE CRANBERRIES SHEPHERD'S BUSH **EMPIRE** LONDON

ful Departed, a cacophonous mess, is behind them.

The Shepherd's Bush Em-

pire was an adroit choice, too. It was intimate enough to accommodate the new, more reflective material, and hig enough (though barely) to house the strident rockers with which The Cranherries reached even the most insulated hospitality suites of the stadia they regularly played in the mid-Nineties. Sporting a blonde fringe and clad in black, O'Riordan looked like a militant Nolan sister, zipping to and fro in a splay-footed jig the entire night. She exuded an entirely natural stage presence, a compelling quality the rest of the band knew relieved them of any

showmanship duties. As ever, O'Riordan's distinctive vocal hitchkick provided a handy barometer for the quality of the songs. Its folky inflection finds a natural least the dross of To the Faith- est single, offered a good



Dolores: the air of a militant Nolan sister Steve Gillett

example. Initially beguiling. O'Riordan somehow contrived to sound like a keening Tellytubby by its conclusion.

It's not as though she hasn't a crisp, tight band behind her. It's just that while dictating the performance, she also overshadowed them. "Linger" met with a rapturous reception, but even here O'Riordan sounded bored with her own melodic skill, harking at the

crowd to "Sing it!". "Saving Grace" or the elegant "Human Being" were far

more intricate, satisfying efforts than the dunder-headed anti-Troubles dirge "Zomhie" or the out-and-out rant "Delilah". She may have criticised the likely successors to the Cranberries' crown, the Corrs, for a lack of raunch, but it's obvious which songs the svelte sisters from Dundalk have learnt from.

MIKE HIGGINS

A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

EN 'This is ENO at its very, very best, vividly focused, dramatically direct...not to be missed' ^o Salome

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I in a fortnight

E WEDNESDAY REVIEW

ar Cate Blancher

From the new with a fill of the least Voltage of the every finest Editoria a managemental de la companiona de la companiona

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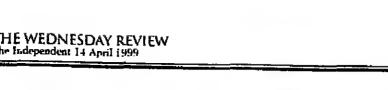
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End of the pierrot show

Big shoes, little cars, custard pies: clowns have an image problem with the over-fives. But now our red-nosed chums have discovered tragi-comedy. And rebranded themselves as performance artists. By Clare Bayley

Polunin. Before Slava. clowns were universally reviled. Red noses, big of here. Then one or two critics went resentfully along to the Hackney Empire thinking that their reviewing days were certainly over if their editor was sending them off to Hackney to see a clown. A Russian clown. But Slava performed a magic trick on the wbole lot of us, and when the fabled Snowshow was over, we and 1,000 other audience members stayed in our seats, bewitched, bouncing giant balloons around the auditorium.

The Hackney Empire's Roland Muldoon booked Polunin "sight unseen" for three nights, and has been worshipping the god of theatre fortune ever since. The crowd doubled each night purely on word of mouth. "The audience was looking for something different. I felt the same. I'm more rewarded by that than by a lot of stand-up. I can see clowning becoming a very popular medium," Muldoon says.

Most people would rather visit the dentist than watch a clown show, but Muldoon has put his money where his mouth is and dubbed 1999 Year of the Clown at the Hackney Empire. But there are strictly no custard pies, and no Marcel Marceau either. Instead, from Catalonia, comes Leandre, a prankster of consummate physical skill, and from Russia via Dresden Edinburgh Festival with Once.

The refreshing thing about both ves to gags they become crude and often unfunny. The great clowns, from Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton to Jacques Tati and Jean-Louis Barrault, used pathos as much as humour, and inspired their audience with compassion, even empathy, rather than the contempt or fear often feit for circus clowns. Slava's Snowshow opens with the familiar yellow- and red-costumed figure shuffling sadly on carrying a noose. His attempt to hang himself is tragically thwarted by the fact that there's another clown on the other end of it, also trying to hang berself.

Clowns who achieve this bittersweet combination are internationally popular because they are trading in universal human emotion, rather than just comedy, which is culturally very specific. Muldoon cites the case of Amazoo tribes laughing uproariously at Chaplin films, while a modern clown, like Mr Bean, is laughed at in 17 languages. Slava Polunin claims there are 10 great stage clowns in the world, and Muldoon is on the bunt for them.

"It wasn't until I saw Jean-Louis Barrault in Les Enfonts du Porodis that I understood what clowning can be if it isn't restricted by comedy. Good clowns are like Blues musicians, they're free to stay within a theme but improvise around it. It come Derevo, the electrifying works each time, but differently.

t all started with Slava troupe who wowed last year's They play off the audience and it has to be live - you can't do it on telly." One of the 10, he is sure, is Le-

popularity is, as Muldoon identifies, his connection with the public. The these acts is that they're not just andre. A master of ingenuity and show always changes in response checky trousers, red there to make you laugh. Wheo transformation, he has moved from to the audience," he says. "I'm restreet busking in his native aliv there ever Barcelona to international touring can happen. If I get distracted by

'Audiences don't accept fiction so much any more, so most clowns play with reality

His major assets are his face and body, over which he has total manipulative control. He uses them unadorned by make-up, red nose or baggy pants, hut refers back to clochard style of

clowning with an old ! . suit which is slightly ill-fitting and crum-His skill as a physical

performer is matched by (his imagination. He does use props - umbrellas turn into butterflies, crinolines. the wheels of various vehicles; a roll of masking-tape becomes the various instruments in a jazz band, and then a partner in tango. But he doesn't need props. It's the power of suggestion that presents us with the constipated man who proudly wears his turds on his shoulders like epaulettes.

"Audiences don't accept fiction so much any more, so most clowns don't play with fiction, they play with real-

in large, proscenium-arch theatres. something in the audience, it's not annoying like it is in a play it's a chance for me. We build this show together, the audience and me, and we go as far as we can." Leandre

sees himself as part of an eclectic tradition which incorporates the Marx Brothers. Chaplin, Cyrano Bergerac. Steven Berkoff, Robin

> Williams, Jim Carey, commedia dell'arte... "I accept and show my influences. obvious they're there," he says. It's particularly poignant for him to work at the Hackney Empire. which has hosted some of the greats of that tradition, including Chaplin in his early days, Stan Laurel, WC and Buster

ity," he explains. But the key to his Keaton. "That theatre has got magic," concurs Leandre. "I don't know how or why, but in the wings you feel it.

> though similar tradition, roundin member Anton Adassinsky worked in Stava's Licedei clown troupe for several years before branching out with his own company. But Anton shares some of Polunin's almost obsessional research into the business. When Slava was preparing to go professional, be allegedly spent two years in a library reading about clowning and studying 91 videos of Chaplin movies. Anton gathered a group of 50 students together and embarked on a year of 16-hour days, going through 200 exercises to achieve a state of mental and physical purity. By the end of the year, five of the 50 remained, and they are the core Derevo.

"I once saw a book which had documentary photos of psychiatric patients," says Anton by way of explanation. "They had such strong eyes - it was an old book with bad print, but such energy came out of die eyes. I thought, if such power can come just from oaper, how is it possible to do it on stage?" The resulting performance was Red Zone, a violent, expressionistic piece which won the admiration of avant-gardistes, including the oroducer Michael Morris. "They are genuinely, alarmingly anarchic, and provide a much-needed antidote to the highly-drilled chaos of, say. The Wooster Group or Jan Fabre," said Morris at the time.

ney Empire at the end of April, is a far gentler affair, though it still taps into the primal emotions of an au-Derevo emanate from a different, dience. "We realised that people still need lytical clowns and love stones says Anton. Once weaves a tale of the doomed love of a beak-nosed janitor (played by Anton) for a doll-like beauty in a cafe. For his performance, Anton dons the white face,

false nose and outsized shoes of the

traditional clown, though the show

Once, which comes to the Hack-

itself transcends this tradition. He sees the make-up as baving the effect of a mask. "It's very powerful. It's higger than the performer, it changes you and it changes the audience. It brings the feeling of fairytale, it brings imagination which doesn't exist in the world. For me, if a clown is just human, it's not really a clown. It has to be able to break through to another world. That world is one which makes people laugh in spite of their suffering. "If we lose this, we

lose everything," says Anton. If audiences can overcome their prejudices and tap into the transformative spirit of clowning rather than its superficial and debased aspects, perhaps the millennium-olo form will again become truly popular. Like stand-up, but with depth and diversity:

Leondre: Thurs to Sun: Derevo: 27 Agr to 9 May, both at the Hackney Empire. London ES. A series of clowning workshops will also be held for further information, call the box office: 0181-985 2424

Taking care of No 1

THEATRE

BEGIN AGAIN APCHES THEATRE GLASGOW

SELF-SEEMING POWER games set against more compassionate or collectivist aspirations form a conmon central thread in these very different plays

Pinter's first major hit was written and set some 40 years ago, as the post-Second World War consensus buckled under more individualistic oressures, while KiC's latest nroduction, devised by the director Guy Hollands and the writer David Harrower, takes a present-day look at the austerity years of the late Forlies, when that sense of shared national ourpose approached its high water mark.

Under Andy Arnold's direction. the Arches company has built a reputation for Pinier, and the current show sustains its predecessors' quality. Characterisation is the key with which the three-strong cast open up the play's microcosmic world, the junk-filled bedsit owned by the would-be wheeler-dealer Mick (Paul Riley), occupied by his trustingly vulnerable brother, Aston (Ross Stenhouse: a former asylum inmate, and invaded by the tramp. Davies (Andrew Dallmeyer).

The performances evoke the vacuuni beneath the surface of all three lives, as they cling to their various postures and pipe-dreams in the hope of gaining advantage.

This sense of underlying pain or desperation gives an emotional heart to the production that balances the action's aura of meanness and menace, offering a glimpse of hope in the possibility of mutual understanding, even if it is unrealised.

Begin Again's little resonates on at least two levels, encapsulating both the idea of a fresh start that followed the end of the Second World War, and the play's Jekyil-and-Hyde device of following the same character through two contrasting chains of choice and action, operating initially in reverse - from the moment of the protagonist's death - then running in the opposite direction.

We first meet John Morrison (Jain Macrael as an idealistic foot soldier in the campaign to win the peace. full of the joys of national unity and the new welfare state in his job as a civil service clerk. His second incarnation finds him disillusioned with the privations of rationing. We see him setting out as a black-market dealer. with his only ambition to maximise his sbare of the spoils.

It's an elegant conceit, elegantly executed through a mix of voice-over and brief dramatised scenes, with noir-ish lighting emphasising the production's stylistic debt to films of the period. Its central aim seems to be to examine the historical realibes of an era often obscured by nostalgia, while echoing the triumph of out-for-vourself materialism under Tbatcherism.

In its present form, however, the piece is too slight to support such ambitions, despite vigorous performances all round. It largely fails to depict any wider social context around Morrison's life, at a time when family and community pressures were still cohesively powerful. while the pessimistic import of its narrative conclusion seems rather too glibly cynical.

SUE WILSON

'The Coretaker'. to 24 Apr. 0141-221 4001: Begin Agnin, touring to Edinburgh and Paisley to 20 Apr. 0141-445 6000

ON THE FRINGE

MENOPAUSAL GENTLEMEN DRILL HALL, LONDON # 400 JOKES WITH THE DEVIL LYRIC STUDIO, LONDON

FROM THE moment Peggy Shaw swaggers on to the stage in her pinstripe suit and eyes the audience up knowingly, you know you're in for one helluva show. The pose is a cross between James Dean and Marlon Brando, the identity is butch lesbian, and the subject is - well, what else could it be? - the menopause.

For the next threequarters of an hour, Shaw talks, sings and growls her way through the physical battle that inside her body. This is vulnerability at its most macho: "There's a beast inside me," she snarks, "wearing out grooves on my floor." Shaw revels in the mony that for a woman who wears her mascutinity not only on her sleeve, hut also in the cut of her trousers, the menopause is not the first

battle her body has had to fight. "I'm a 53-year-old woman who passes for a 35year-old man," she shrugs. "It's a trade-off. I sacrifice being a woman for youth."

The setting is an almost empty, black stage. In place of props, Shaw furnishes her monologue with a rich. raw language that takes f rom songs ranging from "I'm a Man" to "My Way." and adds its own kind of poetry. For example, her knowingly absurd rendition of Nina Simone's "In the Dark" - in which first her scurrying feet and then her hands are highlighted from the pitch black by small torches winking out from her trouser-legs and sleeves - is followed later by a moving yet humorous account of the distilled terror that surges up on her in the small hours. when insomnia in the dark



Peggy Shaw in 'Menopausal Gentlemen'

brings her face to face with her ageing process. "It's 4am – the hour of the wolf, she growls. The line is typical of the restless "inyour-face" energy that

powers the show aggressively making the audience laugh at the same time as it wakes it up to intimate moments of her desolation.

manipulation of stage space cuts a sharp contrast with the cluttered set of 400 Jokes With the Devil. The set is a partial warning for what follows: an overambitious attempt to document the controversial travels of the Russian filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein though Mexico in 1929

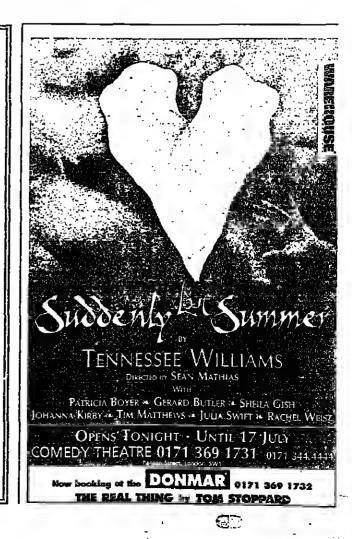
In this production the devil is in the detail. The play drags while the plot laburiously spells out every hitch and tantrum Eisenstein went through while making his unfinished: lytical and haunting representation of Mexican life and its rituals in Que Viva Mexico. It is perhaps inevitable in a play that documents a love affair with film that the stage comes off the worse of the two media. In a single shot. Eisenstein's

211 O 🚱

portrayals of, say, a peasant at a temple or a cactus at the roadside convey more in a few seconds about his thought processes and experiences of Mexico than this play can in more than two hours.

This said, there are redeeming elements. The music is excellent, and the cast gives a nuanced and sensitive performance of Ben Livingstone's arrangements of both Russian and Mexican songs, Hannah Young stands out from the cast as a versatile performer. But she, rather like Eisenstein's films, is perhaps netter seen in another context. RACHEL HALLIBURTON

'Menopausal Gentleman'. to 17 Apr. 0171-637 8270: '400 Jokes with the Devil. to 17 Apr 0181-741 8701



Anger motivates me

I WORK FOR...

SHEENA MACDONALD IS PA TO NICK HARDWICK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE REFUGEE COUNCIL



Sheena MacDonald: 'It is very encouraging to hear the stories of refugees who have managed to rebuild their lives against the odds'

Tom Craig

pist, but decided it would he fairer all round if I didn't ractice. Instead, I joined an action group which campaigned against asbestos use and went on to work in a woman's centre in Paisley as a clerical bookkeeper and information and advice worker. It was when I moved to London to spend four and a half years working as a branch administrator for Unison in Tower Hamlets that I first got involved with immigration and refugee cases and

understood the Issues at stake. I have only been here for two and a half months; I experienced a vertical learning curve on arrival be the agenda, which is why the Kosocause there is so much that Nick is involved in. For example, my first portant part to play. We are also task was to call the Home Secretary's office to try to get a meeting to make sure that all refugees would between him and Nick extended. 1 be offered suitable accommodation quaked but Nick said to me: "People who don't make mistakes don't for people to be is at home in safety

me know of the things that go wrong, or cover them up so well that I don't know about them, then we will be fine." It was such a relief to know that he was so calm to work with.

At the moment, Nick is involved in discussions with the Home Office about the Kosovar refugee crisis and how the Government might respond. We have been asked to work on contingency plans for the arrival of Kosovar refugees to the UK, but we do not know if or when refugees may arrive or how many to expect. This makes it very difficult for us and one of my key tasks is to ensure that staff who are being drafted in to help from other refugee agencies can feel their way around here.

"Family reunion is very much on vars already over here have an imand support. Clearly the best place

then European governments should be responding to the crisis in a positive and generous way.

People can see from the pictures of Kosovar refugees that they are ordinary people with ordinary lives who are caught up in an extraordi-

> One local paper in the UK even referred to asylum-seekers as 'dross' which should be 'washed down the drain'

putting pressure on the Government nary situation. I think from the huge number of calls the Refugee Council has had that people are sympathetic to their plight. Unfortu-encouraging to hear the stories of nately, they are sometimes refugees who have managed to re- cause I feel strongly about. make anything, so as long as you let and dignity, but if that isn't possible portrayed in a very negative way in build their lives against the odds.

the UK - one local paper even referred to asylum seekers as "dross" which should be "washed down the drain". I can't imagine how it must have felt for my refugee colleagues to read that. Actually, most refugees are educated and desperately want to rebuild their lives despite the trauma they have been through.

"Since I have arrived we've been campaigning on the new Immigration and Asylum Bill. One of its measures will leave asylum-seeking children living on 50p a day. Will this leave asylum-seekers with respect

"I recently met a number of newly arrived refugees at one of our diplomatic. We are all working to get advice centres which was when the the best deal for refugees. I guess real horror of their situation hit me. Fve always been politically moti-Released from prison-like conditions within detention centres with lot of rantings and ravings. I've alno money, no English and often just ways been very clear that profit the clothes they stood up in, they had had to find their way to us in Lon- work, satisfaction is what counts. My don without help. It is, however, very job at the Refugee Council is a

The Ligandan Asians are a good example, some of whom were listed last week as among the most successful of British business people.

I tried to switch off over Easter but I found that I had to turn on the television and radio to see what was happening. Since Nick is constantly at interviews as well as at meetings with refugee organisations, agencies. MPs and supporters, one of my key responsibilities is to make sure that he has time in between all his meetings to sit down and de-brief.

Anger Is motivating but it's important to channel it, so all my colleagues are very level headed and vated, my family have put up with a shouldn't be my main motive for chance to do something about a INTERVIEW BY KATTE SAMPSON

A story of love and hate

HAVE a recording of Billie Holliday singing "When Love Goes Wrong (Nothing Goes Right)". I think Marilyn Monroe sang it originally, but with Billie's piteous tones it's positively suicidal, the sort of song you play at four in the morning when The Smiths have got boring.

Since I started working with Doug and Hannah, this song never seems to be far from my mind. When one of them stalks across the floor, Billie starts to croak in my ear, and keeps on until they have receded into the distance. Nothing has been said overtly, but it's as obvious as crisps trodden into the carpet that, though it may have been a good party, it's over, and the participants are suffering from sick hangovers that they have every intention of inflicting on each other.

Get this: day one, and I'm hunting for a phone list, working out where the "on" switch is on the computer, pulling up old correspondence files in the hope of working out a standard letter layout, when Doug arrives. "Where is she?" he says. "Who?" I ask. "Hannah Monckton," he says. "Oh," I say, "She's got a breakfast meeting." To which he heaves a sigh and says "Oh, yeah, the old breakfast meeting. Tell her to contact me immediately she gets in." And off he marches.

At 10am, Hannah comes in looking well-fed and cheerful. We make acquaintance, and I relay Dong's message. Hannah's face clouds over.

"Thanks," she says. "Til contact him when I'm free." And she, too, stalks off. 10:30am: the phone rings;

Doug. "Is Hannah there yet?" Yes. She said to tell you that she'll get in touch when she has a moment," I say; I've long since become a past master at making palatable the charm of my seniors. "No," he says, "Tell her to call me immediately."

10.31am: Hannah: "Tell Mr Me-Me-Me Forster to stuff it." 10.32am: "Hello, Mr Forster, Hannah is in a meeting right now. She'll be in touch as soon as she can."

10.35am: Doug passes my desk at a rate of knots. 10.36am: Doug and Hannah

pass back in the opposite direction, she walking at an even greater pace than his. He touches her wrist; she shakes it off like a horse swatting a fly. 10.37am: Door to stairs bangs shut.

10.42am: Door to stairs bangs open again, slams



behind Doug, who is purple in

10.42am plus 30 seconds:

Door to stairs opens quietly and Hannah emerges looking grimly triumphant. I thought at first that this was a simple personality clash. then began to suspect some

darker harassment question. But, as I said, the signs are there if you're looking. For under all the rage, the attempts at sabotage, the frostiness, there a familiarity you find only in people who know each other very very well. They hiss into each other's faces from so close up they are almost kissing, make personal comments ("I told you that was the wrong sort of briefcase": "You always say that when you know you're in the wrong"; Well, it's probably in the car. That's where it was last time"). know each other's personal. habits ("Lunch? Where is she? Giovanni's, I suppose?") in a way that they could only if they'd shared lives at some point.

Wednesday, Hannah calls in sick. "Are you OK?" I ask. "Can I do anything for you?" "No," she croaks, "It's some sort of flu thing. It's been coming on for days. Just hold the fort, will you?" "Sure," I say, start

shoring up those arrow slits. Doug turns up soon after. "Ill?" He says? "Well, that's just typical, isn't it?" He turns on his heel and walks away.

A few minutes later, he's back. "What did you say was wrong with her?" "Flu, I think. She sounded pretty croaky." He

thinks for a moment. "Maybe I should call her." "Sure." I start to look for her number, but he's already picked up the phone and dialled it from memory. Drums his fingers, twitches when the phone is answered.

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"Hannah?" he says, "It's me. I hear you're ill." Then he turns his back and hunches into the phone, as if this will stop me hearing what he says next. "Shall I come over tonight? I think we ought to talk ... " He listens, then says, quite gently, "Mm. Me too." Hangs up and, with a watery smile, returns to his desk.

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APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL

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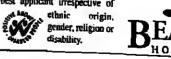
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VEDNESDAY REVIEW



behind Doug, who is purple is 10.42am plus 30 secondo Deer to stairs opens quiely and Harriet emerges looking grindy thumphant

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-Well_ .: a probably in the car That's where it was last time? Amow each other spersonal habita "Lunch! Where is afret. G. ovarani's, I suppose" in a will that they could only Entrey Excepted lives at MOTTO THAT Window Harmah calls a HICK THE HOLDEN Lask Can $(-2\pi)/(2\pi) \approx 50\pi \, \mathrm{you}^{\alpha +} \cdot N_0 \pi$

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HOUSING GROUP EF FXECUTIVE'S MENTAL SECRETARY y \$15,760 - \$15,564 pa Plus Bereits

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MIGHTY JOE YOUNG (PG, 114 mins) UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen. And local cinemas

THE INFORMATION DAIL

CINEMA · THEATRE · EXHIBITIONS · MUSIC · DANCE · LITERATURE · COMEDY · EVENTS · TV & RADIO

NEW FILMS

BEDROOMS & HALLWAYS 115, 96 mins) Director: Rose Tracing

Starring: Keich McKidd, Jermifer Ehle Bedrooms & Hullways, the latest offering from the This Life school of British film-making, sees Kevm Mckido's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday. Key's orientation arrow spins from gay to straight, his mates offer endless advice. and Simon Callow pops up as a New Agey men's group leader. Rose Troche's smooth direction and McKidd's winsome acting compensate for an often smug and lightweight script. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Claphani Pic-

ture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mexanine, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Repertory: The Pullman Everyman

A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins) Director: Steven Zaiban

Starring: John Travotta, Robert Duvall

Juhn Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga that nanotheless raises inevitable comparisons with Sidney Lumet's The Verdict. Culled from a true story, A Civil Action spins a David-and-Goliath-style drama, in which blue-collar locals go bead to head with the big corporations who poisoned their water. Zaillian negotiates the legal intricacies with ingenuity. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15, 104 mins) Director: Robert Rodriquez Starring: Elijah Wood, Shawn Halosy See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odean Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cattage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

HIGH ART (18, 101 mins) Director: Lisa Cholodenko Starring: Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema, Screen Director, Robert Lepane

Starring: Anne Marie Cadieux, Alexis Martin Lepage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel narrative that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to gel; its scenes unravel; its reach exceeds its grasp. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Burbican Screen

ORGAZMO 118, 90 minst Director: Trey Parker Starring: Trey Parker

Orgazmo looks like the love-child of Boogie Nights and Flesh Gordon: a gambolling send-up of the porn industry. Parker stars as a Mormonturned-skin-flick-superstar, Robin Lynne plays the fiancee who stumbles upon his guilty secret. West End: Plaza

THE RED VIOLIN (15, 130 mins) Director: François Gilaid

Starring: Samuel L Jackson, Greta Scacchi Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down through the centuries. Unfortunately, a thrift-shop budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast-offs from a BBC schools programme, More crucially, Girard's bitty narrative leaves his film labouring in third gear throughout.

West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Haimarket. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Local: Hampstead ABC

SLAM 115, 99 minst Director: Maic Levin Starring: Saul Williams, Sonja Sohn

Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force. Saul Williams plays an Afro-American Everyman, busted on a drugs charge before finding freedom of expression through his rap stylings. Levin's story is preachy and simplistic; earthy and earnest. Much like slam-poetry itself. West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema, Local: Holloway Odeon, New Stratford Picture House

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 119 mins)

A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide of a blue-collar racist (Edward Norton). But it does boast a stunning performance from Oscar-nominated Norton. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ARLINGTON ROAD 115, 117 mins)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (CONTE D'AUTOMNE) (II 111 mins)

Eric Rohmer's new romantic drama is airily elegiac and as warm as sunshine. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Renoir

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 109 mins) Hugh Wilson's Cold War satire begins promisingly enough, but it soon nosedives into brash predictability. With Alicia Silverstone and Brendan Fraser. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15, 110 mins) Central Station trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine year old charge on a hunt for the boy's missing father. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill, Renor, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15, 106 mms) Filmed using natural light, natural sound and a hand-held camera, Festen begins in a rush of pure, unfettered drama. Its rawness is largely contrived, but by the end you're too hooked to care. West End: ABC Panton Street

GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 110 mins) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Screen on the Hill, The Tricycle Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road Local: New Stratford Picture House

HILARY AND JACKIE (15, 121 mins) Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustain wartsand-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). West End: ABC Ponton Street

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA)

(PG, 116 mins) Roberto Benigni's comedy, in which the writerdirector stars as a clowning Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Clophom. Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minema, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Boker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket. And local cinemas

Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla, who hangs out in the African jungle with his Tarzan-type protector. Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike. West End: Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End,

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER 115. 92 mins! Charles Laughton's 1955 drama hinges on a legendary bit of screen villainy from Robert Mitchum as a murderous preacher. West End Curzon Soho, Renoir

PAYBACK (18, 102 mins)

Revisiting the source that inspired John Boorman's Point Blank, this revenge thriller sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get his money back and to get even. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cattage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE 112, 124 mins) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Plaza, Warner Village West End

PLUNKETT AND MACLEANE (15, 101 mins) Plunkett and Macleane are rakish Dick Turpins cutting a dash through 18th-century society. Plunkett (Robert Cartyle) packs a pistol, while Macleane (Jonny Lee Miller) romances a debutante (Liv Tyler). Yet instead of a decent plot, director Jake Scott offers noise and pop-proma visuals. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road. Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cattage, Ritzy Cinema. UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U, 90 mins) Given the small-screen success of the Rugrats (cartoon toddlers up to no good), a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Kids, no doubt, will eat this up. Adults should simply grin and bear it. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15, 123 mins) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Riverside Studios Cinema. And local cinemas

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG, 117 mins) Franco Zeffirelli's Teo with Mussolini ambles through its tale of dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins) Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to directing is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. A cast of familiar faces (John Travolta, George Clooney) play second fiddle to the creeping narcotic mood. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Richmond Odeon Studio

WAKING NED (PG, 91 mins)

Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tullymore, has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventures as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s norror amour James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is magnetised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Pleasantville (12)

Two Nincties teenagers are "sucked" into a favourue Fillies siteou and evert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idell. A witty parable about prejudice and change.

High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as leshian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's hinterly witty take on New York living (and dving) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

The Faculty (15)

Kevin Williamson does a again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script. subversive morals. Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

Shakespeare in Love (15) This enjoyable, Oscar-ladeo historical romp (right) suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for Romeo and Julier. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) hend an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play (right) about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Gross Indecency

(Gielgud Theatre, London) The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer in all his complexity. Booking to 5 Jun.

Forbidden Broadway

(Jermyn Street Theatre, London) Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre specify from Southeim to The Lion King via Elame Paige. To Its May

Colombe (Salisbury Playhouse) Up-and-coming director Jonathan Church signs off at Salisbury with the characteristically bold and imaginative choice of an Anouilh comedy set in Paris's theatrical demi-monde. To 17 April

Uncle Vanya (Mercury Theatre, Colchester) Gregory Floy stars in the Chekhov classic - the second leg of Mercury Theatre's brave experiment in forming a resident ensemble of actors for nine months of the year. To 24 April

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Abstract Expressionism (golng on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power, women as exquisite no langes

Henri Michaux

He travelled. He wrote. He took drugs. And, inspired by

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh) Photographs 1994-98 tright: huge, panoramic, high-finish. micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world

 stock-evchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May



One of the great hits of the decade; a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - abedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping dead in a line at your feet. To 3 May

TOM LUBBOCK

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2,15pm, 5,15pm, 8 10pm Festen 1,15pm, 3,40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) © Piccadilly Circus Affliction I pm. 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 8.10pm, 9.25pm,

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE Elizabeth 5.30pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE Square/Piccadilly Circus Hideous Kinky 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm. 8,35pm Jenseits der Stiffe 1,40pm, 4,10pm, 6 30pm, 8,50pm No 1,20pm, 3,10pm, 5pm, 7pm. 8,55pm La Vita e Bella 1,20pm. 3,45pm, 6 10pm, 8,40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD |0870-902 (414) & Tottenham Court Road Gods and Monsters 1 10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm Payback 1,45pm, 4,10pm, 6,35pm. 9.10pm Plunkett and Macleane 1,35pm, 4pm, 6,45pm, 9,35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN 10171-638 88911 Moorgate No 6,15pm, 8,40pm The Red Violin CHELSEA CINEMA

3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Bedrooms and Hallways

.20pm, 9.30pm A Bug's Life 1pm A Civil Action 1.30pm, 4pm, 640pm, 9.10pm Gods and Monsters 9.20pm Plunketr and Macleane 2pm. 4 20pm 6 50pm. 9pm The 39 Steps [1935 Version] 3 20pm, 7,30pm La Vita e Bella 2pm. 4,30pm, 7pm CURZON MAYFAIR

10171-369 17201 O Green Park Central Station 1.30pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON SOHO

[0171-734 2255 (12ncon-6pm)] O Leicester Square-Tottenham Court Road Conte d'Automne 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm Gods and Monsters 4.30pm, 9.30pm High Art 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Night of the Hunter 2.15pm, 7.15pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE 8.30pm Tea with Mussolini 12.30pm. 3 15pm. 6pm. 8 45pm GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) + Notting Hill Gate Central Station 1 35pm. 6.25pm La Vita è Bella 3.55pm, 8.45pm METRO (0171-734 1506) & Piccadilly

Circus/Leicester Square Aprile 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Slam 2pm. 4,15pm, 6,30pm, 8,45pm CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) O Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge La Vita e

Bella 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Plunkett and Macleane 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

ODEON CAMPEN TOWN (08705-050007) O Camden Town American History X 2 40pm. 5.40pm, 8.35pm Ufe 12,10pm The Faculty 11,50am, 2,15pm, 4,30pm. 5.45pm, 9pm Payback 11 45am, 10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm. 9.05pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm This Year's Lave 12,20pm, 4 30pm, 8,40pm Waking Ned 2 35pm, 6.50pm

ODEON HAYMARKET Piccaditly

12

ODEON KENSINGTON 2pm. 4.30pm. 6.55pm. 9.25pm The Red Violin 12.05pm, 3.10pm. 6.15pm, 9.20pm La Vita è Bella 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Waking Ned 2.45pm. 5pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

ODEON MARBLE ARCH 108705-050007]

Marble Arch A Eug's Life 12noon The Faculty 1pm. 3.35pm. 6.10pm. 8.55pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm. 3.50pm Payback 1.15pm. 3.40pm. 6.25pm. 9.05pm Plunkett and Macleane 2.10pm. 4.30pm. 6.50pm. 9.15pm The Rugrats Movie 1.10pm. 3.10pm. 5.05pm Shakespeare in Love 6.20pm. 9.10pm Waking Ned 7pm. 9.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE 108705-050007) Leicester Square Bedrooms and Hallways Upm, 4.15pm 6.25pm, 8.35pm Bug's Life 2pm. 4.10pm Elizabeth 12 35pm. 3.05pm. 5.35pm. 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 12 55pm. 4 15pm. 7 40pm This Year's Love 6 20pm. 8 40pm La Vita e Bella 12,45pm, 3 20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE 08705-0500071 Swiss Corrage Bug's Life 1 30pm The Faculty 1 05pm, 3.50pm, 6 25pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 12,40pm Payback 3,45pm, 6 15pm, 8 45pm Plunketr and Macleane 1 15pm, 3 45pm, 6 15pm, 8 45pm The Red Violin 12 05pm, 2.45pm, 5 30pm, 8 20pm Shakespeare in Love 3pm. 5 45pm, 8 25pm Tea with Mussolini 12.30pm. 3 10pm. 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) & Piccadilly Circus Blue Planer 12 35pm Everest 4.45pm. 9 05pm 1- Short. Morel 15 - The First Gty In Space [3-D] 2.40pm. 7pm T.Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11 30am. 1.35pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 10 10pm

(0990-888990) ← Piccadilly Circus Orgazmo 12 45pm. 3 15pm. 5.30pm. 8pm Patch Adams 12.30pm Pleasantville 3pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm. 4 15pm. 7 45pm Shakespeare in Love 12noon, 2,45pm, 6pm, 8,50pm

entral Starion1.15pm, 6 40pm onte d'Automne 1.35pm. Conte d'Automne 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Night of the Hunter 4 35pm, 9pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) 8R O Buston American History X 9 30pm Central Station 2 05pm. 6 50pm High Art 12 30pm, 2 45pm, 5pm 7.10pm, 9.25pm (+ Short Angell Insomnia 1pm Piunkett and Macleane 12 10pm. 2 25-pm. 4.45pm, 7.05pm. 9.20pm Short Anthrakatisi The Rugrats Movie 12.45pm, 2.35pm, 4.25pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm Slam 2.55pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm La Vita è Bella 4 200m. 9.10pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) Baker Street Central Station 3 50pm, 6 20pm. 8 45pm La Vita e Bella 3 40pm · 6.10pm, 8.35pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN 10171-226 3520| O Angel High Art 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm (+ Short: Éval Little Voice 2 30pm SCREEN ON THE HILL

Monsters 6,40pm, 8 55pm

10171-435 3366| O Belsize Park Elizabeth 3.20pm Gods and

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) O Kilbum A Bug's Life 1,30pm, 4pm Gods and Monsters 9,15pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0870-603 4567)

Bedrooms and Hallways 2pm. 4,30pm. 7,10pm. 9,45pm A Bug's Life 1pm A Civil Action 1,15pm. 4pm. 6,40pm. 9,10pm The Faculty 1,45pm. 4,20pm. 7pm. 9,25pm Mighty Joe 1,30pm Payback 3,50pm. 6,30pm. 9,45pm Plunkett and Macleane 12,30pm. 2,40pm. The Rugrats Movie 12,15pm. 2,20pm. 4,10pm Shakespeare in Love 6,10pm. 9pm Tea with Mussolini 12,30pm. 3,30pm. 6,20pm.

12.30pm, 5.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm La Vita e Belia 12noon. 3 I Opm, 6pm. 8.50pm VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) ↔ Sloane Source/South Kensington A Chil Action 12,45pm, 3pm, 8,30pm, 9pm The Faculty 1pm, 3,45pm, Spm The Faculty Ipin, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm La Vita e Bella 12,45pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) O South Kensington Bedrooms and Hallways 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 9 10pm Gods and Monsters 1,20pm, 3 40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Payback 1 40pm, 4 10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare In Love 2pm. 5.30pm. 8.15pm You've Got M@il

2,40pm, 5,20pm, 8pm VIRGIN HAYMARKET Circus Bedrooms and Haliways 3.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line 2.45pm, 8pm La Vita è Bella 2pm, 6,15pm, 9pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) O Piccadilly Cucus American History X 8,10pm Arlington Road 6pm. 8,30pm Blast from the Past 12,40pm. 3 20pm. 5.20pm A Sug's Life 12 15pm A Civil Action 12 05pm. 2 15pm. 4.30pm. 6.45pm. 5pm The Faculty 12 10pm. 2.25pm. 4.35pm. 6.50pm. 9.05pm Payback 12noon, 2.55pm. 5.55pm. 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 11.55am. 1.50pm. 3.50pm Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm. 3.05pm. 5.45pm. 8 25pm The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2.20 6 40pm, 8 45pm 2.20pm.

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) O Leicester 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6.20 9.05pm Arlington Ro 12.20pm, 5.10pm, 6.15p 9.10pm Blast from the Past 12 55pm, 3 25pm, 6.05pm. 8.40pm A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2 35pm. 4.50pm The Faculty 1 30pm. 4pm. 6.30pm. 9pm The Opposite of Sex 7.25pm. 9.45pm Payback 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm. 6 30pm. 9.30pm. Pleasantville 9.20pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm. 3.20pm. 5 20pm. 3 20pm You've Got M@il 12.50pm. 3 30pm. 6.10pm.

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE

American History X 9.20pm Arlington Road 10pm Blast from the Past 1 10pm 3.50pm, 6.70pm 9.10pm A Bug's Life 11 10am, 1.70pm A CIVII Action 11 30am 3pm, 4 40pm, 7 10pm, 9 40pm The Faculty 2,20pm, 4 50pm, 7,30pm, 9 50pm Jack Frost (2noon Madeline)1,15am Mighty Joe 11am. 1.40pm. 4.15pm Payback 1.30pm. 4pm. 6.40pm. 9pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.30am. 1 50pm. 4.30pm, 7pm. 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm The Rugrats Movie 10 50am. 12.40pm, 2 30pm, 4 30pm, 6 50pm Shakeneare in Love 3 30pm, 6.10pm. 8.50pm Waking Ned 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 7.20pm

ODEON (08705-050007) + High Barnet The Faculty 4pm. 6.20pm. 8.30pm La Vita è Bella 1.45pm 8.30pm La Vita e Bella 1.45pm Little Voice 6.40pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm. 2.45pm Payback 6.50pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.30pm. 4.15pm, 7pm. 9pm The Rugrats Movie I 2noon, 2pm, 5pm Shakespeare in Love 8.45pm Waking Ned 2.50pm. 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm

BECKENHAM

BECKENHAM
ABC (0870-902 0412] BR: Beckenham Junction A Bug's Life
1.10pm, 6.10pm The Faculty
2.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Madeline
12.15pm, 4.35pm Plunkett and
Macleane 6.15pm, 8.40pm The
Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.10pm,
4.10pm Shakespeare In Love
3.25pm, 8.20pm 3.25pm, 8.20pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550)

4,30pm, 9,30pm Blast from the Past 2,30pm, 5,05pm, 7,30pm, 9,50pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1pm, 3pm A Civil Action 1,30pm, 4.05pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Faculty 1.55pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Jack Frost 12noon Made-line 11.30am Mighty Joe 11.30am, 2pm, 7pm Plunkett and Macleane 12,20pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm The Rugrats Movie 11.05am, 11.50am, 1pm, 1 50pm, 2.55pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Shake speare In Love 5pm. 7.30pm. 9.55pm Waking Ned 1.45pm. 3.45pm. 5.45pm. 7.45pm. 9.45pm

BR: Bexlevheath The Acid House

BROMLEY (08705-050007) ODEON BR: Biomley North A Bug's Life 12noon The Faculty 2.45pm. 5 50pm. 8.20pm Mighty Joe 1.25pm. 3.50pm Payback 6.10pm. 8.45pm Plunkett and Macleans 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm. 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm Waking Ned 8.50pm

A Bug's Life 12.30pm The Faculty 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Plun-kett and Macleane 6.10pm. 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm

ABC (0181-461 1278) BR: Catford

CATFORD

FAIRFIELD HALLS (0181-688 9291) BR: East Croydon Little 9291) BR: Ea Voice 7.45pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon A Bug's Life 12.30pm A Civil Action 5.20pm, 8.20pm The Faculty 5.30pm, 8.10pm Mighty Joe 12.20pm, 2.40pm The Rugrass Movie 1pm, 3.10pm Waking Ned

2.45pm, 5.35pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Arlington Road 8.50pm Blast from the Past 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm. 8.30pm A Bug's Life 10.45am. 12.50pm. 2.55pm A Civil Action 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6,50pm, 9.15pm The Faculty 5.10pm, 7.30pm. 9.50pm Jack Frost 10.40am Madeline 10.50am Mignty Joe 11.40am, 2.10pm, 4.40pm Payback 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.10am, 1.30pm, 3 50pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Prince of Egypt 11.30am The Rugrats Movie 10.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Shakespeare in Love 6.10pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned Ipm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE |0181-592

2020) O Dagenham Heathway American History X 9.40pm Arlington Road 9.50pm Blast from the Past 1.20pm, 3.50pm. 6.20pm, 8.50pm A Bug's Life 10.50am, 1pm A Civil Action 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9pm Jack Frost 11.50am Madeline 11.10am Mighty Joe 11am 1.50pm, 4.25pm Payback 11.40am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11 20am The Rugrats Movie 10.40am, 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm. 7pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Waking Ned 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@II 7 20pm

Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Inn

of flesh and fabric, To 25 Apr

(Whitechapel Gallery)

grief and mescalin, he created amazing, wobbly bubbly wibbly scribbly fine-grain line drawings. To 25,4pr



Antony Gormley's 'Field'

(firstsite at Culver St, Colchester)

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD 10870-907 07191 BR/O Ealing Broadway A Bug's Life 1.10pm The Faculty 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.30pm Payback 6.40pm, 9pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Rugrats Movie 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm

EDMONTON
LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tottenham Hale Arlington Road 9.35pm A Bug's Life 3.10pm A Civil Action 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm The Faculty 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm Madelline I 2noon Mighty Joe 3.40pm Payback 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Macleane I 50pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.20pm The Rugrats Movile 2.10pm, 14.50pm, 4.30pm, 5.15pm, 6.40pm Tea with Mussolini 6.10pm La Vita è Bella 8.50pm Waking Ned 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

4pm. 6.30pm. 8.35pm ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET [0171-703 4968] + Elephant & Castle The Faculty 3.40pm. 6.10pm. 8.45pm Plunkett and Macleane 3.30pm, 6pm. 8.50pm

FELTHAM

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 05551 BR: Feltham Aarzoo 367 (355) Bic Felliam Aarzoo 11,03am, 3pm, 8,20pm, 9,40pm American History X 8,30pm Anari No 1 3,40pm, 9,15pm Blast from the Past 11,20am, 1,40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 12.35pm, 2.40pm A Civ-ii Action 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Dil To Pa-gal Hai 11.15am, 6.05pm The Fac-ulty, 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, ulty 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm international Khi-Japan Samiha Karo 11.25am. 2.45pm, 6.10pm, 9.35pm Jack Frost 11.40am Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2.50pm, 9.20pm The Last Days of 12.50pm Mighty Joe 10.40am. 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm Patch Adams 11am, 1.20pm, 7pm Pay-back 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm. 9.20pm. 10pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.05am. 1.10pm. 5pm. 7.15pm. 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 11am. 12noon, 1pm. 2m. 3pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8pm Shakespeare In Love 4.45pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Waking Ned 3.05pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm

FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE |0181-446 6.10pm, 9.50pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 12.50pm A Civil Action 1,10pm. 3.50pm. 8.20pm. 9pm The Faculty 3.15pm. 6.40pm. 9.10pm Jack Frost 10.40am La Vita e Bella 6.30pm Madeline 11.20am Mighty Joe 10.30am, 1.40pm, 4.20pm Payback 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8 40pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 10.50am The Rugrats Movie 11.10pm, 1.15pm, 3.30pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm, 9.50pm Waking Ned 1.50pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE JOI 71-604 3110)

O Finchley Road Arlington Road

9.35pm Blast from the Past 11am. 1.25pm. 3.55pm. 6.25pm. 9pm ABug's Life I 1.20am. I .40pm A Chril Action 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Faculty 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Madeline 11.45am Mighty Joe 10.50am, 1.25pm Pay-back 2pm, 4.25pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.20pm. 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm Shakespeare in Love 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm

GOLDERS GREEN GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724| O Golders Green A Civil Action 2.45pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 5.15pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) Ravenscours Park The Faculty 1.20pm. 3.50pm. 6.30pm. 9pm Mighty Joe 12noon, 3.10pm Pay-back 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.40pm

9.70 Soft had street to Property News And Jak <u>CINEMA</u>

joined by Johnny Mart for a

performance of The Smiths' Meat is

Murder'... there must have been a few

groans at the prospect of three hours

of earnest campaigning... From then.

and enjoy a line-up of exceptional

quality," Simon Briggs, Dody

Telegraph. "Meat may be murder.

but this wasn't a wake," Max Bell,

Where You Can Catch It ...

This Saturday at 7.30pm on Radio 2

and on Sunday at 10.30pm on BBC1.

Evening Standard

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CINEMA WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.25pm. 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-437 3561) ⊕ Piccadilly circus Affilction 1pm. 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Timo Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square Bedrooms and Hallways 3.30pm. 6.05pm, Elizabeth 1.45pm. 5.30pm, 8.25pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 ()403) O Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Hideous Kinky 1.50pm. 4.05pm. 6.15pm. 8.35pm Jenseits 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm No 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8.55pm La Vita e Bella 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm Payback 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Plunkett and Macleane BARBICAN SCREEN

CHELSEA CINEMA

0171-351 3742] & Sloane Square d'Automne 1.35pm. 3 55pm. 6.25pm. 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Bedrooms and Hallways 5 20pm, 9.30pm A Bug's Life 1pm A Civil Action 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Gods and Monsters 9.20pm Plunkett and Macleane 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9pm The 39 Steps (1935) Version) 3.20pm, 7.30pm La Vita e Bella 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm

CURZON MAYFAIR 5.15pm, 8.45pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734-2255 (12ncon-6pm)) O Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Conte d'Automne 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm Gods and Monsters 4.30pm, 9.30pm High Art 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, Art 2pm, 4,45pm, 7pm, 9,20pm Night of the Hunter

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE 5quare A Civil Action 12.35pm. 3.25pm. 6.15pm. 9pm La Vita è Bella 12noon, 2.45pm. 5.45pm. 8.30pm Tea with Mussolini 3.20cm. 3.15pm. 6pm. 8.45pm 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4042) & Notting Hill Gate Central Station 1.35pm. 6.25pm La Vita e Bella 3 55pm. 8.45pm

0171-734 1506) ← Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Aprile 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm 5lam 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 3.45pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) O Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge La Vita è 8ella 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Plunkett and Macleane

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) ← Camden Town American History X 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.35pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm The Faculty 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 11.50am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Payback 17,45am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.40am, 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 12.20pm, 4.30pm, 8.40pm Waking Ned 2.35pm, 6.50pm

ODEON HAYMARKET [08705-050007] & Piccadilly Circus The Red Violin 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.25pm **ODEON KEPSINGTON**

(08705-050007) & High Street Kensington Bedrooms and Hallways 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.40pm, 10.05pm A Bug's Life 1pm The Faculty 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Mighty Joe 12.10pm Payback 7.15pm. 9.50pm Plunkett and Maclea 9.50pm Plunkett and macreane 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm The Red Violin 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm La Vita e Bella 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Waking Ned 2.45pm, 5pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE ODEON MARBLE ARCH

|08705-050007| → Marble Arch A Bug's Life 12ncon The Faculty 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 3.50pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6,25pm, 9,05pm Plunkett and Macleane 2,10pm, 4,30pm, 6,50pm, 9,15pm The Rugrats Movie 1,10pm, 3,10pm, 5,05pm Shakespeare in Love 6.20pm 9.10pm Waking Ned 7pm, 9.10pm **ODEON MEZZANINE**

(08705-050007) Θ Leicester Square **Bedrooms and Hallways** 2.10pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.35pm A Bug's Life 2pm. 4.10pm Eitzabeth 12.35pm. 3.05pm. 5.35pm. 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 12.55pm, 4.15pm, 7.40pm This Year's Love 6.20pm, 8.40pm La Vita e Bella 12.45pm. 3.20pr 6pm. 8.40pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(08705-050007) ← Swiss Cottage A Bug's Life 1.30pm The Faculty 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm Payback 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.15pm, 3.45pm. 5 15pm, 8 45pm The Red Violin 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm. 3.20pm. 2.45pm. 5.30pm. 8.20pm Shakespeare in Love 3pm. 5.45pm. 8.25pm Tea with Mussolini 12.30pm. 3.10pm

ODEON WEST END Leicester |08705-050007) **↔** Square Little Voice 6.30pm. 8.55pm Mighty Joe 12.55pm. 3.25pm Waking Ned 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.35pm, 9pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA Circus 8iue Pianet 12,35pm Morei L5 - The First City in Space

(3-O) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Rec Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 10.10pm

(0990-888990) • Piccadilly Circus Orgazmo 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 8pm Patch Adams 12.30pm Pleasantville 3pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm. 4.15pm, 7.45pm Shakespeare in Love

RENOIR (0171-837 8402) Russell Square Central Station1.15pm, 6.40pm Conte d'Automne 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Night of the Hunter 4.35pm, 9pm

12noon, 2.45pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/⊕ Broxton American History X 9.30pm Central Station 2.05pm. 6.50pm High Art 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.25pm (+ 5hort: Angel) Insomnia 1pm Plunkett and 1pm Plunkett and 12.10pm, 2.25pm.

4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm (+ 5hort: Anthrakatis| The Rugrats Movie 12.45pm, 2.35pm, 4.25pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm Slam 2.55pm, 5.05pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm La Vita è Bella 4.20pm, 9.10pm SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-935 2772) & Baker Street Central Station 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm La Vita è Bella 3.40pm, SCREEN ON THE GREEN |0171-226 3520| & Angel High Art 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm (+ 5hort: Eva) Little Voice 2.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000) & Kilbum A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm Gods and Monsters 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 7pm

UCI WHITELEYS 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Mighty Joe 1,30pm Payback 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.45pm Plunkett 3.50pm. 6.30pm. 9.45pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.30pm. 2.40pm, 4.50pm. 7.20pm. 9.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.15pm. 2.20pm. 4.10pm Shakespeare in Love 6.10pm. 9pm Tea with Mussofini 12.30pm. 3.30pm. 6.20pm. 9.10pm La Vita è Bella 12noon. 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA 10870-907 07101 & Sloane Square South Kensington A Civil Action 12.45pm. 3pm. 5.30pm. 9pm The Faculty 1pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm, 8.45pm La Vita è Bella 12.45pm. 3.15pm. 6pm. 8.30pm Waking Ned 1.15pm. 3.30pm. 5.45pm. 8.15pm

YIRGIN FULHAM ROAD 10870-907 07111 & South Kensington Bedrooms and Hallways 1pm, 3,30pm, 6,50pm, 9,10pm Gods and Monsters 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 3.40pm 1.40pm. 4.10pm. Payoack 1.40pm. 4.10pm. 6.50pm. 9.20pm Plunkett and Macleane 12.10pm. 2.30pm. 4.50pm. 7.10pm. 9.30pm. Shakespeare In Love 2pm. 5.30pm. 8.15pm Pome Got M@il 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET 0870-907 0712) O Piccodilly Circus Bedrooms and Hallways 3.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line 2.45pm, 8pm La Vita è Bella 2pm. 6.15pm. 9pm VIRGIN TROCADERO

Circus American History X 8.10pm Arlington Road 8.30pm Blast from the Past 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm A Bug's Life 12.15pm A Civil Action 2.15pm. 4.30p. 2.15pm. 4.30p. The Faculty 4.35pm 12.05pm. 12.10spm, 2.13pm, 1.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm The Faculty 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Payback 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 11.55am 1.50pm, 3.50pm Shakespeare In Love 12 35pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2.20pm, 4.25pm,

6.40pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST ENO (0171-437 43431 O Leicester puare American History X 2.30pm. 3.15pm. 6.20pm 3.15pm, Arlington 3.10pm. 12.20pm. 3.10pm. 6.15pm. 9.10pm Blast from the Past 12.55pm. 3.25pm. 6.05pm. 8.40pm A Bug's Life 12.20pm. 2.35pm. 4.50pm The Faculty 1.30pm. 4pm. 6.30pm. 9pm The Opposite of Sex 7.25pm. 9.45pm. 8pm 11.20pm. 11.20pm. 11.20pm. 11.20pm. 11.20pm. 11.20pm. 11.20pm. 9pm The Opposite of Sex 7.25pm. 9.45pm Payback 11.30am, 1pm. 2pm. 3.30pm. 4.30pm. 6pm. 7pm. 5.30pm. 4.30pm. 6pm. 7pm. 8.30pm. 9.30pm Pleasantville 9.20pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm You've Got M@il 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm. 8.50pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal American History X 9.20pm Arlington Road 10pm Blast from the Past 1.10pm. 3.50pm. 6.20pm. 9.10pm A Bug's Life 11.10am. 1.20pm A Civil Action 11.20am 2pm. 4.40pm. 7.10pm. 9.40pm The Faculty 2.20pm. 4.50pm. 7.30pm. 9.50pm. Jack 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Jack Frost 12noon Madeline 11.15am Mighty Joe 11am, 1.40pm. 15pm Payback 1.30pm, 4pm. 6.40pm, 9pm Plunkett and Macleane 11.30am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm The Rugrats Movie 10.50am. 12.40pm. 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm Shake-8.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Waking Ned 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 7.20pm

RARNET OOEON (08705-050007) & High Barnet The Faculty 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm La Vita é Bella 1,45pm

12.30pm, 2.45pm Payback 6.50pm, 8.50pm Plunkett and Macleane 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2pm, 5pm Shakespeare in Love 8.45pm Waking Ned 2.50pm, 4.45pm. 7.15pm, 9.15pm ABC (0870-902 0412) 8R: 8eck enham Junction A Bug's Life

1.10pm, 6.10pm The Faculty 2.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Madeline 12.15pm, 4.35pm Plunkett and Macleane 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.10pm. 10pm Shakespeare in Love 3.25pm, 8.20pm

BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLO (0181-303 1550)

THEATRE

today: times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. Seats at all prices D — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: 5un, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fn, [7]: Sat

AMADEUS David Suchel stars as Salieri. Old Vic The Cut. SE1 10171-494 5372/cc 494 5372) BR/ Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, €7.50-£30.

ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage version of the Marx Brothers' classic. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494) 5045i Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm, £9 50-£30, 150 miлs.

ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb. and Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road. WC2 [0171-369 1736] ⊕ Leic 5q. Tue-Sat 8pm. [4] 3pm. [7][1] 5pm. 59.50-527.50.90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lav ish family musical based on Disney's version of the favourite fairytale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road. W1 (0171-656 1898) & Tott Cr Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4([7] 2 30pm. £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

⊗ BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpudlian mu-sical, Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) ◆ Lec Sq Kett Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 4pm. £11.50-£32 50 165 mins.

● SUDDY Musical biog show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930) 88001 Covent Garden, Tue-Thur 88m, Fri 5.30pm à 8.30pm. Sat 5pm & 8.30pm. mats | 1 | 4pm | £10-£30. half price Fri mats | 160 mins

⊕ CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T5 Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7 45pm. [3][7] 3pm. £10.50-£35, 165 mins D CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Pe-

ter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane. WC2 10171-344 0055) & Charing X Mon-5at Spm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee], 130 mlns. O THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(AERIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare company fast forwards through 37 plays, Criterion Piccadilly Circus. WÍ (0171-369 1747) ♦ Picc Circ Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £10-£25, 120 mins. D COPENHAGEN Drama from

Michael Frayn about the discovery of the alom, Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 |0171-494 5075, cc 344 4444| ent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. 15[[7] 2.30pm, £10-£30, 145 mins. @ DEFENOING THE CAVEMAN

Mark Little stars in this comedy of the sexes. Apollo Shaflesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-5at 6pm & 8.45pm, E5-E25, concs available. A DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield

talks to the animals. London Apol-lo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street. W6 |0171-416 6022) ◆ Hammersmith Tue-Sat 7,30pm, [4][7] 2,30pm, ends 28 Aug. £12,50-£32,50, 150 mins. THE GIN GAME Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this sensitive

around a lengthy game of Gln Rum-my. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8868:cc 836 0479) BR/O Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends S Jun. £9.50-£27.50. O GOOO Charles Dance In CP Taylor's deceptively humorous

Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) [5][7] 3pm, ends 22 May, £14-£22,

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film starring Darren Day. Cambridge Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden. Mon-5at 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE Michael Pennington and William Hoy-land in Moises Kaufman's reconstruction of the downfall of the celebrated playwright. Glelgud 5haftesbury Avenue. W1 |0171-494 5065) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. |4||7| 2.30pm, £7.50-£29.50.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £12-£29.50, 110 mins,

● MACBETH Rurus Sewell and Sally Dexter portray thwarted ambition. Oueen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040 cc 344 4444) ₱ Picc Grc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [7] 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun. £10.50-£28.50. 140 mins.

MAKING NOISE QUIETLY Robert lman's series of short pieces depicting encounters between strangers hall, SW1 (0171-369 1735/cc 867 11111 BR:© Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. (5)(7) 2.30pm, ends 22 May. £6-£21, 135 mins.

O MAMMA MIA! Musical about a mother's reflections on her daughter's wedding day, packed with Abba hits. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W1 |0171-447 5400| & Letc Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35,

■ THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julia Sawalha Vaudeville Strand, WC (0171-836 8pm. [5][7] 3pm. £8-£27.50.

CLASSIC HITS from the Seventies including

"So Tired of Being Alone" are bound to

feature in this rare live appearance by Al

Royal Albert Hali. Kensington Gore, London

SW7 (0171-589 8212) to 29 Jun

Now Booking

Green (below).

) LES MISÈRABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterniece, Palace Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 0909) Picc Circ Mon-Sat 7 30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins

OMISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £8 51-£35

@ THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. 5t Martin's West Street. WC2 (0171-836 1443) Deic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm. [3] 7 45pm. [7] 5pm. £10-£24.50, 135 mins

THE NEW ROCKY HORROR SHOW 25th anniversary of the cult rock in roll musical. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 |0171-834 1317) BP/⊕ Victoria, Mon-Thur 3pm. Fri 5 30pm & 8 30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, ends 5 Jun. £10 50-£29.50, 140mins. O OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lip-

7,30pm, [4][7] 2,30pm, ends 26 Jun. £10-£35, 180 mins. O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Hay-market, SWI 10171-494-5400 cc 344

man stars in the National's ac

claimed production. Lyceum

[4](7) 3pm. E10-E35, 150 mins O THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE Richard Dreviuss and Mar-sha Mason star in Neil Simon's midlife crisis comedy. Theatre Royal. Haymarket Haymarket, SWI (0171-930-8800) © Picc Circ Mon-Sat

7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32 50. ② RENT Musical inspired by La Bo me and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-711221) & Holborn Tott Ct Pd, Mon-Sat 7 30pm, [4][7] 3pm, E12,50-E32 50, 160 mins

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE LYTTELION The Geometry of Miracles Robert Lepage's lates work is inspired by the drawings and buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright. In rep, tonight 7 30pm

DOLIVIER: Candide Voltaire's comic masterpiece, featuring an all-star cast. In rep. tonight 7 15pm, ends 22 May. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-\$32, 5outh Bank, 5E1 (0171-452 3000). ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

OTHE BARBICAN: The Winter's Tale Anthony Shor stars in this tale of obsessive jealousy. In rep. tonight 15pm, ends 6 May O THE PIT: Roberto Zucco Drama by Koltes, inspired by a wanted poster. In rep, tonight 7,15pm, ends 1 May, Barbican Theatre, £5-£26, The Pit £11-

£18 50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-

638 9891) BR/ Barbican SACRED HEART Two friends struggle to come to lerms with their pasts and daunting futures. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambas-sadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-

ends 24 Apr. £10, concs £5

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER BIL 1970s musical featuring songs by the Street, W1 | 0171 -494 5020) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4||7| 2.30pm. £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech rollermusical. Apollo Victoria Wilton Road. SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR, ↔ Mon-Sal 7,45pm, [3][7 3pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins. SUODENLY LAST SUMMER

Tennessee Williams' chilling tale of motherly love starring Sheila Gisb. Cornedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) ⊕ Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5]|7] 4pm, £7.50-£27.50. I THE WEIR Conor McPherson's dra-

ma examining ideas of ghosts and an-(at the Ouke of York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ♣ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3.30pm. £5-£25. 90 mins. WEST SICE STORY New pro-

duction of Bernstein's classic musi-cal Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) & Leic Sq.Picc Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £18.50-£35, 160 mins. O WHISTLE DOWN THE WINO Lloyd Webber's musical based on the film of the same name. Aldwych Ald-

born. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5][7] 3pm. £10-£32.50. 120 mins. ● THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's ghost story: Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238) ◆ Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 8pm, 131 3pm.

THEATRE

[7] 4pm. £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

BEYOND THE WEST END

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Hushabve Mountain Jonathan Harvey's play with the twin setting of Heaven and Earth. Mon-Sat 8pm. mats 5at 3.30pm. ends 8 May. £14-£16. concs £6. Mon & Sat mats £9. Av-enue Road. NW3 [0171-722 9301] Swiss Cottage.

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Gob Jason Orange stars in this comic attack on art and culture. Tue-5iin 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3.30pm, ends 18 Apr. £12-£14, concs £9. Upper 5treet. N1 [0171-226 1916] Angel.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Blood Knot Athol Fugard's drama about racism. Tue-Sun 7.45pm. ends 25 Apr £10. concs £6. Crisp Road, W6 (0181-237

BOX OFFICE

*THE INFORMATION ON A Concert for Linda McCartney

immediately when tickets went on sale

last May Meanwhile, Sinéad O'Connor

reason the show sold out almost

was in typically eccentric form,

claiming that she could sense her

second half featured veteran

performers, including Tom Jones,

Marianne Faithfull and Elvis Costello.

What They Say About It

. The fact that these are the

people that most pub crooners

few pints occasionally lends

surreal touch," Andrew Mueller,

Independent. "The evening got

off to an uncomfortable

start as Hynde and

the Pretenders were

proceedings an engagingly

imagine themselves to be after a

dead mother in the stalls. A rousing

What is it? Star-studded fundraising concert in honour of Linda McCartney (below), photographer animal rights campaigner and Beatles wife, who died of cancer last April. Described by host Eddie Izzard (right) as "a sort of karaoke evening", the show was set against a backdrop of McCartney's photographic work, and featured more than a dozen artists singing their own and Beatles' material. The finale was a tear-jerking tribute by husband Paul, and the inevitable rendition of

Who's in it? George Michael, in his first live appearance for two years, was probably the

Let it Be".

ALCERSHOT WEST END CENTRE The Kaos Me tropolis Stage adaptation of Fritz ng's film. Tonight 8pm. £6. concs E5 Queen's Road (01252-330040)

THEATRE

BRECON THEATR BRYCHEIMOG Blue Heron in The Womb Black comedy about love, sex. families and death. Tonight 7.30pm £7.50, concs £5.50, Canal Wharf (01874-611622)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL The Late Middle Classes Haroid Pinter directs Simon Gray's study of family conflict in 1950s England, Tue-Sat 7 45pm. mats Thur 2 30pm, Sat 4pm, ends 17 Apr £8 50-£18.50, Bond Stree (01273-328488)

BRISTOL HIPPODROME THEATRE Pharitom of the Opera Tour of Lloyd Webber's huge hij musical, Mon-5at, 7.30pm. mats Wed & Sat. 2,30pm. ends 22 May. £10-£30, concs available 5 Augustines Parade (0117-922 2444

MARLOWE THEATRE Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Rice and Lloyd Webber's Bib lical hit. Mon-Thur à 5at 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Fri 5pm & 8pm, ends 24 Apr £10-£21, concs available. The Friars (01227-787787)

COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE Uncle Vanya Chekhov's tragi-comedy set on a run-down Russian estate, Mon-Sa 7.30pm, ends 24 Apr. £6.50-£15.50 Ealkerne Gale (01206-573948) GUILDFORD

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Vertigo Anthony Andrews and Jenny Seagrove in this adaptation of the novel which inspired Hitchcock's film. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri & Sat, 8pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 24 Apr. £10-£21.50. Millbrook (01483-440000) HARLOW HARLOW PLAYHOUSE Oliver The

late Lionel Bart's Dickensian musi-cal. Wed-5at 7,30pm, mac 5at 2.30pm, ends 17 Apr. £6-£8. The High (01279-431945) HIGH WYCOMBE WYCOMBE SWAN Pirates of Penzance Paul Nicholas stars in this Gilbert and Sullivan swash-buckler.

HAYMARKET THEATRE The White Devil Paul Kerryson directs John Webster's classic Jacobean tragedy. 14-16 Apr. 7.30pm. ends 30 Apr E6.50-E14.50, concs available 8elgrave Gate (0116-253 9797)

Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat

2.30pm, ends 17 Apr. £8.50-£23.50.

POOLE ARTS CENTRE A Doll's House Theen's classic, 14 & 15 Apr 7.45pm. £7.50-£11.50. Kingland Road (01202-685222)

SALISBURY SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Colombi Jean Anouith's stylish evocation of the Parisian demi-monde. Tonight 7 30pm, ends 17 Apr. 8pm. £8-£15. Malthouse Lane [01722-320333]

THE OTHER PLACE Orognok Aphra Behn's Restoration novel, adapted by Biyi Bandele. 14-17 Apr. 7.30pm, ends 6 Oct. £10-£20. 5outhern Lane [01789-295623]

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE Othello Michael Attenborough directs Ray Fearon and Zoe Waites 14-17 Api, 7.30pm, ends 7 Oct. £5-£39. Waterside (01789-195623)

SWAN THEATRE Tales from Ovid Tim Supple directs the late Ted Hughes' version of Ovid's sublime epic poera. 14-17 Apr. 7.30pm. ends 7 Oct. £5-£36. Waterside 101789-2956231 WINDSOR

THEATRE ROYAL Persuasion Helen Hobson in Jane Austen's elegaic romance. Mon-Sat 8pm. mats Thur 30pm, Sat 4.45pm, ends 24 Apr. £6-£25, concs available. Thames 5treet (01753-853888)

of Jules Laforgue: Patrick Caulfield Prints by the Pop artist. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 18 Apr. free. Canal Wharf [01274-611622]

BRECON

EXHIBITIONS

THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SO-CIETY For Most Of It I Have No

Words: Simon Norfolk Photographs of 20th-century genocide. Mon-Sun

9.30am-5.30pm, ends 6 Jun. £2.50, concs £1.75 The Octagon Galleries, Milsom Street [01225-462841]

THEATR BRYCHEINIOG The Poems

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary American Prints Etchings, lithographs, woodcuts and screenprints. Ends 2 May, free. Rembrandt and the Passion The museum's outstanding collection of prints. Tue-5at 10am-5pm, 5un 2.15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun, free.

Trumpington Street (01223-332900) CARDIFF FFOTOGALLERY Common Sense: Martin Perr Photographic installa-tion examining consumerism. Tue-Sat 10am-5,30pm, ends 8 May, free, Charles Street (01222-341667)

COLCHESTER FIRSTSITE AT ROMAN HOUSE Antony Gormley's Field for the British Isles Forty thousand terra-colta figures, Tue, Wed, Fri-5un 12non-6pm, Thur 12noon-7pm, ends 23 May, free by donation. Queen Street (01206-577067)

EXETER ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM The Art of Hilda Carline: Mrs Stanley Spencer The paintings of Spencer's first wife. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. ends 3 May, free. Queen Street [01392-265858]

HERNE BAY MUSEUM ANO GALLERY Andy Goldsworthy Photographs of his temporary structures. Mon-Sat William Street (01227-367368)

DESIGN MUSEUM Mini: 40 Years of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle Ends 9 May Modern Britain 1927-1939 Includes work by Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Earbara Bepworth Mon-Sun 11.30am-6pm, ends 18 Jul. £5.25, concs £4, 5had Thames 5£1 10171-378 60551 @ Tower Hill.

NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by Ingres Paintings and drawings by the 19th-century French artist. Mon. Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6, concs £4. Wed £4 7pm-10pm. Orazio Gentileschi at the Court of

ian Mon Tue Thur-Sun 10am-60m Wed 10am-9pm. ends 23 May. free. Rogier Van Der Weyden in the National Gallery Paintings by the 15th-century Dutch master. Mon. Tue. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 4 Jul, free, Trafalgar Square WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Charing Cross. ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Monet in the 20th Century Paintings made in the 26 years after 1900, Mon-Thur 9am-6pm, Fri 9am-11pm. Sat 8am-1 lpm, Sun 8am-from, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6, child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Kandinsky - Watercolours and Other Works on Paper Works span-

ning the career of the abstract artist Mon-Thur, Sat & Sun 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-8.30pm, ends 4 Jul, £6, cones £4.80, NUS £4, child (12-18) £2.50, child (8-11) £1.50. Surlington House, Piccadilly W1 (0171-300) TATE GALLERY Works on Paper and Paintings: Francis Bacon Previously

unknown works. Ends 2 May, free. Pharmacy: Damien Hirst Medicinal installation, Ends 2 May, free. Jackson Pollock Major retrospective of Abstract Expressionist works Ends 6 Jun. £7.50, concs £5, far ily £19 |Firstcall 0870-842 2233 Turner's Last Papers 1820-S1 Examining the paper Turner used for his later work. Ends 13 Jun. free. Dangerous Liaisons: Barbara Hep-worth and Ben Nicholson Exam-

Gwen John Explores the relationship between the artists. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 11 Jul, free. Millbank 5W1 (0171-887 8000) ← Pimlico. SOUTHAMPTON CITY ART GALLERY Twenty Great Dutch Paintings Including work by

ining the artists' cross-lertilisation of

ideas. Ends 11 Jul. free

Hobberna, Rembrandt and Vermeer. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, 5un 1pm-4pm ends 13 Jun, free. (01703-832151) TATE GALLERY Images of Portmeor Beach: Lubaina Himid Work by the resident artist, Mon-Sat 11am-7pm.

5un 1 Iam-5pm, ends 18 Apr. £3.50. Porthmeor Beach (01736-796226)

SWANSEA GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Eighteenth Century Oerby Porce-ain Finc ceramics. Ends 25 Apr. free. Syzygy: Alan Rogers and Philip Mead Contrasting visions. Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 9 May, free. Alexandra Road (01752-651738)

CLASSICAL

LONDON BLACKHEATH HALLS Soloists of the Royal Opera House Beethoven's Septet and Schubert's Octal Tonight 8pm, £12.50, concs £10. Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100) BR: Blackheath.

ST JAMES'S CHURCH Tirana String Quartet UK debut by the Albanian quartet. Tonight 7.30pm. £10, concs £5. Piccadilly, W1 (0171-381 0441)

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Jupiter Orchestra/Rose Dvorak's Violin Con-certo and other Czech works. Tonight 7.30pm. £5 & £10, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061) • Westminster. ROYAL ALBERT HALL Royal Phil-

harmonic/Gattl Mahler's Ruckert Lieder and 6th Symphony. Tonight 7,30pm. E5-E32. Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212) & High POOLE WESSEX HALL POOLE ARTS CEN-TRE Bournemouth Symphony Or-chestra/Litton Elgar's Violin

OPERA

Concerto with Walton's 1st Sympho-

ny. Tonight 7.30pm. £9-£30, King-land Road (01202-685222)

LONDON WILTON'S MUSIC HALL The Silver Lake Staging of Kurt Weill by Broomhill Opera conducted by Charles Hazlewood, Tonight 7.30pm. £15 & £20. Grace's Alley, £1 (0171-420 0000) & Tower Hill.

Literature

BRIGHTON The Brighton Rock Creative Writers Local writers meet and read; bring along your own work to share or just come along to listen. Caxton Arms Tonight 8.30pm, free. North Gardens (01273-207762)

LONDON Express Excess An evening of performance poetry with Hannah K Andrews, Dickon Savage, Lloyd Lindsay and Mark Kelly. The Enterprise Tonight 9pm. £4, concs £3. Haverstock Hill, NW1 (0171-485 2659) ↔ Chalk Farm.

DANCE

LONDON LABAN CENTRE Wendy Houstoun: Happy Hour Fifty min intoxicating monologues and bar stool philosophy. Tonight 7.30pm, phone for prices, ends 15 Apr. Lau-Grove, 5E14 (0181-692 4070) O New Cross.

PLACE THEATRE Matthew Hawkins: Dances from the New Territories Islamic and Western dance meet. Tonight 8pm. £10. Duke's Road, WC1 (0171-387 0031) BR/O Euston.

WIMBLEDON THEATRE Arc Dance Company presents The Return of Don Juan Dramatic comedy with Royal Ballet star, Irek Mukhamedov, Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £7.50-£14.50. The Broadway, SW19 (0181-540 0362) & Wimbledon,

COMEDY

BEDFORO MEL ANO SUE AT CORN EX-CHANGE, BEDFORD Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins offer their frolicsome humour Tonight 8pm. £10.50-£12,50. 5t Paul's Square (01234-269519)

Steve Frost, Tonight 8pm. £11, NU5 £7 Oxendon Street, SW1 (0171-344 0234) Piccadilly Circus. OXFORD SWANGLEURS NATIONAL TOUR AT JONGLEURS OXFORD With

THE COMEDY STORE AT COMEDY STORE With Neil Mullarkey. Richard

Paul Tonkinson, Terry Alderton, Marcus Brigstocke and Keith Fields, Tonight 7pm, £5. Hythe Bridge Street |0845-608 1818| PORTSMOUTH Dangerous Liaisons: Rodin and BILL BAILEY AT WEDGEWOOD

ROOMS The hippie chic comic with

a mastery of the musical comedy

form, Tonight 8pm, £7.50. Albert

CLUBS

BRIGHTON BULLIT AT HONEY CLUB Big bent. funk and more. Tonight 10pm-2.30am. £3. King's Road Arches (01273-202807)

CAMBRIDGE THE GOODLY WEDNESDAY AT THE FEZ CLUB Respected garage session with Ministry's Gareth Cooke. Tonight 8pm-2am. £5, £3 before 11pm. Market Passage (01223-519 224)

LONDON SPACE AT BAR RUMBA Chicago's Cajmere plays tech-disco. Tonight 10pm-3am. £5, NUS/before 11pm £3. Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-287 2715)

EVENTS

BRYNMENYN ENVIRONMENTAL FUN DAY Green family fun day with walks, pond dips, games and quiz trails. Bryngarw Country Park To-day 11am-3pm, free (01656-729009) GUILDFORD Bodger and Badger
- Mad Mash Three The popular pair are joined by Mousey for another messy adventure for ages 4-10.
Civic Hall Today 2pm, £5. London
Road (01483-444555)

MUSIC

ULTRASOUND Indie-rock from the debut album, Everything Picture. Fleece & Firkin Tonight 8.30pm, phone for prices. St Thomas Street (0.117-927 7150)

CHELTENHAM THE HOLLIES Veteran pop of the 1960s and 1970s. Town Hall Tonight .30pm. £7.50-£17. Imperial Square (01242-227979)

talgia with Peter Noone, Freddie & The Dreamers, Rilly J Kramer and Brian Poole, Leas Cliff Hall Tonight 8pm. £12.50-£16.50. The Leas (01303-253193) LONDON ROSITA New band for former-Kenickie members Marie Du Santi-

SOLID SILVER SIXTIES SHOW NOS-

FOLKESTONE

Dingwalls Tonight 8pm. £6.50. Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road NW1 (0171-267 1S77) ← Camden Town. **URBAN SPECIES Acoustic grooves** with a trip-hop edge, Jazz Café. Tonight 8,30pm, £12, Parlovay, NW1 |0171-916 6060) ← Camden Town.

ago and Emmy-Kate Montrose.

NEWPORT PITCHSHIFTER, JANUS STARK, SOUNDISCIPLES Punkish drum'n'bass from the album wow. pitchshifter.com. TJ's Tonight 9pm, phone for prices. Clarence Place

PLYMOUTH UBAO The Midlands' reggae veteraus. The Pavilion Tonight 8pm. £17.50. Armada Way (01752-229922)

PORTSMOUTH LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO, ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART The star South African a cappella ensemble. The Guildhall Tonight 7pm. £20-£22.50. Gulidhali Square (01705-824355)

WEYMOUTH ERROL BROWN The ex-Hot Chocomouth Pavillon Tonight 8pm E10.50-£16.50. The Esplanade (01305-783225)

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

CARDIGAN MARTIN HAYES AND DENNIS CAHILL The virtuoso Irish folk duo. Theatr Mwldan Tonight 8pm, phone for prices. Bath House Road (01239-621200)

MADDY PRIOR AND FRIENDS The Ravenchild album tour. Woodville Halls Tonight 8pm. £8-£9. Windmill Street |01474-337459| MIKE DANIELS DELTA JAZZMEN

100 Club Dixie-style jazz. Tonight 8pm. E7. concs E6. Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 0933) ⊕ Oxford Circus. PHIL DAY, DAVE CLIFF Tenor and guitar-led modern jazz. 606 Club Tonight 9.30pm & 12mldnight. £S. Lots Road. SW10 (0171-352 5953)

O Fulham Broadway/Earl's Court.

NITIN SAWHNEY The Indo-jazz

guitar virtuoso. Jazz Café. Tonight m. £12, £10 m adv. Parkway, NW1 (0171-916 6060) ← Camden Town. KENNY GARRETT QUARTET Straight ahead bebop and electric fu-sion experience. Pizza Express Jazz Club. Mon-5un 9pm. ends 18 Apr.

E1S. Dean Street, WI 10171-439

8722) O Tottenham Court Road.

SALENA JONES Bluesy US cabaret siren with pianist Paul Sawtell and saxist Iain Dixon. Pizza on the Park . Mon-Sat 9.15pm & 11.15pm, ends 24 Apr. £18. £16 in adv. Knightsbridge, 5W1 |0171-235 5273) ♦ Hyde Park Corner.

9pm & 11.30pm. ends 17 Apr. £15. mems £4. Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747) ← Lekcester Square.

fonight 9pm. £12. Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 LATIN RHYTHMS Sambas from sax

SE.

Last Chance to book

(0171-863 8000) ends Sat

CLOUD GATE (below), Taiwan's foremost

modern dance company, make their British

debut with Songs of the Wanderers, which

includes elements of t'ai chi and meditation.

Sadler's Wells. Rosebery Ave. London EC1

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JOE LOVANO TRIO The progressive U5 saxophonist with powerful sense of form, Ronnie Scott's Mon-Sar

EVAN PARKER/KENNY WHEELER Composer and trumpeter Wheeler leads his quintet, featuring elemental saxophonist Parker Vortex 6516] BR: Stoke Newington,

star Fiona Mitchell Norwich Arts Centre Tonight 8pm. £4, concs £3.50, Reeves Yard, St Benedict's Street (01603-660352)

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Roaring start for ISAs at Halifax

HALIFAY, the mortgage bank, yesterday reported that more than a quarter of a million people had taken out Individual Savings Accounts since their launch just a week ago. More than 100,000 customers had opened new cash ISAs during the week. A further 150,000 rolled over their PEP accounts into ISAs designed for stocks and shares.

Scapa to return £120m to investors



SCAPA, the Blackbornbased group, intends to return £120m, or about 50p a share, to shareholders after selling its papermaking products division to Voith of Germany for £329m yesterday.

Last year the businesses sold made operating profits of £45m on sales of £263m, roughly half the entire company's business, hat the market is increasingly

competitive. Scapa, headed by chief executive David Dunn (pictured), will focus on its technical tapes and fastenings business, where margins have been lower but prospects are brighter. It made an operating profit of £10.1m on turnover of £92m in the six months to last September: The shares leapt 27p to 144p.

Johnston raises Portsmouth stake

JOHNSTON PRESS, the regional newspaper publisher, yesterday snapped up another 2.36 per cent of Portsmouth & Sunderland, taking its shareholding in the publishing and convenience store group to 17.35 per cent. Johnston paid 1,750p each for the shares, compared to the price of 1.600p it paid in January when it took a 14.99 per cent

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is investigating whether to allow Johnston, and its rivals Newsquest and News Communications & Media, to mount a full takeover hid for P&S. However, P&S last night retorted that 1,750p undervalues the company and advised shareholders to take no action.

FTSE 100	DOM JONES	MHCKEI			
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FTSE 350	3088.60	31,80	1.04	3084 40	2210.40	2.51
FTSE All Share	2986.26	29.90	1.01	2982 22	2143.53	2.55
FTSE SmallCap	2428 60	1070	0.44	2793.80	1834.40	3.49
FTSE Fledgling	1319.30	1.80	0 14	1517.10	1046.20	3.87
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us	5.00	-0.66	5.21	-0.57	5 10	0.55	5.48	04
lapan	0.16	-0.52	0.23	-0 47	1 60	-0 26	2.35	-0.14
Germany	2.65	-0 98	2 72	-1 20	3 83	-1.02	4.80	-0.60

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		OUKIS	RATES	_
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	Canada (5)	2.3465	Norway (kroner)	12.2
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RBS poised to renew offer of merger with Barclays

ROYAL BANK of Scotland was By Andrew GARFIELD last night standing by to renew its offer of an agreed merger deal with Barclays Bank, the high street financial giant which has been left rudderless by the shock decision yesterday of its new chief executive Mike O'Neill to retire on health grounds on his first day in the

The Scottish bank had agreed to meet senior Barclays executives to discuss a possible merger back in February, only for the meeting to be cancelled at the last minute after Mr O'Neill had agreed to join the group.

The RBS chief executive, Sir George Mathewson, is now understood to be planning fresh fits it would bring to the bank run up to the first Scottish

Financial Editor

overtures in the light of yes-

terday's developments. The prospect of a bank mega-merger belped drive the FTSE 100 up more than 70 points to a record high of

RBS and Barclays - which have both risen by 40 per cent so far this year - rose sharply again yesterday, putting on 62p to £14.25 and 46p to £19.99 respectively as merger specula-tion took hold.

tified potential cost savings of £200m from a merger with Barclavs, in addition to the bene-

RBS is believed to have iden-

bank has a tried and respected senior management team headed by Sir George and Fred Goodwin, the deputy chief ex-ecutive who joined RBS last year from National Australia

One investment banker said yesterday: "Mathewson and Fred Goodwin, his deputy, are an impressive team."

Because of the disparity in size, the deal would have to be structured as a reverse takeover by RBS of Barclays. with Edinburgh being given at least a symbolic role as group headquarters in order to pacify Scottish public pointion in the

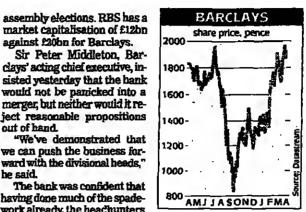
by providing an instant solution assembly elections. RBS has a to its leadership crisis. The market capitalisation of £12bn against £20bn for Barclays. Sir Peter Middleton, Bar-

> would not be panicked into a merger, but neither would it reject reasonable propositions "We've demonstrated that

we can push the business forward with the divisional heads," he said. The bank was confident that having done much of the spadework aiready, the headhunters

Spencer Stuart would be able

to come up with alternative candidates within a reasonable timeframe. However investment bank-



ers warned that given the current merger frenzy in Europe and the growing likelihood of Britain joining the euro zone be-

fore long, institutional investors bitten by the merger bug may not have the nationce to sit tight and wait for the search for a new chief executive to bear

One financier said last night: "They have seen what has happened to bank share prices abroad where mergers have taken place. We have been waiting over a year for a merger in the UK banking sector and nothing has tappened. Earnings are steady but not spectacular, business is flat: the market is looking for something else to take the FTSE on. This might be the gap everyone has been looking for.

Outlook, page 17

Terry Leaby, Tesco chief executive, at its store in Brent Cross, London, yesterday

Keith Dobney

Tesco expands home shopping

TESCO IS planning to roll out its BY PETER THAL LARSEN home shopping service in stores across the country over the next few months, as the supermarket group attempts to cash in on the success of its free Internet service.

Tesco will offer the service. which allows customers to order their shopping online and have it delivered to their homes for a £5 fee, from 100 of its stores, enabling it to reach most of the country.

The move comes after a two-year trial of the service involving 11 stores, during which Tesco experimented with allowing customers to order by phone and fax. However, it has

down if customers only order via the Internet.

"Clearly customers want the service," said Andrew Higginson, Tesco's finance director. "But you have to be red-hot on accuracy and quality if it's going to work."

Tesco expects the service to expand its customer base by tempting shoppers who cannot travel or who live too far away from a supermarket.

The offer is also likely to appeal to users of Tesco's free Internet service, which was launched earlier this year. More than 200,000 people use Tesco concluded that costs will be kept as their Internet provider, with

a further 10,000 joining each month.

Tesco said the home shopping service would create an extra 1,500 jobs in the UK as part of a total of 10,000 that Tesco expects to create this year by extending existing stores and opening new ones. The company is also adding another 10,000 jobs to its operations in central Europe,

Thailand and South Korea. The move came as Tesco sbook off the gloom in the supermarket sector to report a 7.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £881m for the year to the end of February.

The rise was achieved despite last year's price-cutting

campaign, which would have reduced profits by £40m. This was followed in February by another round of price cuts that will cost Tesco 260m on an annualised basis.

Tesco said like-for-like sales growth of 4 per cent was due to a 2.5 per cent increase in sales volumes and a 1.5 per cent rise in prices, the result of higher taxes on tobacco and petrol. Terry Leahey, Tesco's chief

executive, said 1998 was a "challenging" year for the in-dustry despite the recent conclusion by John Bridgeman, the director general of the OFT, to refer the supermarket industry to the Competition Com-

One2One slashes its call rates

ONEZONE, the mobile phone network currently up for sale. yesterday tried to claw back some of the ground it has lost to its rivals in the competitive mobile phone market by slashing its call rates.

From the end of April, One2One will charge just 10p a minute for daytime calls and 2p a minute for evening and weekend calls. The tariffs, which apply regardless of whether calls are local or national, mean that at some points of the day using One2One will be cheaper than using a British Telecom fixed-line phone.

Tim Samples, One2One simplicity of the new tariffs would appeal to customers. who often complained that

confusing.

He added that the tariffs would also encourage people to give up their fixed-line phones. We connect 110 million calls a week and have ample opportunity for more," he said. "The average household uses their BT line for 700 minutes a month. I want some of that."

One2One is the smallest of the UK's four mobile phone operators with a 15 per cent share of the market. In recent months the network has lost ground as Cellnet and Vodafone signed up millions of new customers with their popular "pay-

as-you-go" services. Mr Samples said the new rates would also be made available to users of One2One's own pay-as-you-go service, Up2You. who currently pay 40p a minute for calls. However, in order to take advantage of the rates, BY PETER THAL LARSEN

users will also have to pay a tariff of at least 50p a day.

Mr Samples justified the

change by arguing that it was important to encourage customers to use their phones. "This is not just about seeing who can connect the most cusmers," he said.

Industry analysts yesterday layed down suggestions that the mobile phone market was about to be plunged into a price war "One2One had been losing market share and this allows them to take the initiative." said Justinian Clifford-Bowles. nanaging director, said the a telecoms analyst at Commerzhank. "But it certainly isn't a revolution.'

> Other operators were also work quality was just as important to new customers. 'One2One has to be careful that people don't end up thinking they are cheap for a reason,

A recent survey by Oftel, the telecoms watchdog, identified One2One as one of the least reliable networks, although the company claims its own surveys put it ahead of its rivals in terms of reliability.

Mr Samples said be expected average revenues per customer to remain stable as users increase usage in response to the tariff cuts. Contract customers now spend £480 a year. while pre-pay customers spend more than £200. Analysts value the company,

expected to report earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of £100m this year, at £7bn to £11hn.

Laporte's £1.5bn deal founders on Hoechst veto

LAPORTE, the UK fine chemicals group, was yesterday forced to scrap plans for a £1.5bn takeover by the chemical giant Clariant after strong opposition from Hoechst, the Swiss group's largest shareholder.

The British group baffled the City when it said that talks with a potential bidder had ended, less than 24 hours after admitting it was discussing an offer.

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

shares crashing 12.5 per cent to Sources close to the deal said

the embarrassing U-turn was prompted by Hoechst's lastminute opposition. The German chemicals and pharmaceutical group, which holds 45 per cent of Clariant, is believed to have vetoed the deal at a meeting with The collapse sent Laporte the two companies on Monday

was concerned that a Clariant-Laporte deal might jeopardise its own merger with Rhone-Pouleoc of France Hoechst needs to seil its chemical businesses, including its stake in Clariant, before merging with Rhône-Poulenc, and was worried that corporate action by Clariant

might delay the process. Industry sources said Hoechst could also have hesi-

night. The German company . tated at the prospect of financ- ment, personalities, strategy, ing part of the Laporte deal as due diligence or competition Clariant was likely to add to its \$1.9bn (£1.2bn) debt to fund the "It was a done deal, they

went for agreement from Hoechst and they were refused." one insider said. Another source said the deal cleared all relevant hurdles before foundering on Roechst's concerns. "This is not about price, nor manage- were willing to agree a takeover

issues," he said.

Analysts said the collapse of the takeover was a huge embarrassment both for Clariant and Laporte's chief executive, Jim Leng. They said the demise of the deal would prompt other chemicals groups to bid for the UK company. "Laporte is in play now. The fact that they

means they are now up for sale."

Industry experts said the US group PPG and some European players, including Viag and Degussa-Hels of Germany, could enter the fray.

This is the second setback in four months for Clariant's expansion plans. Last year the group dropped plans for a \$8.1bn merger with Swiss rival Ciba Speciality Chemicals.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

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FOOTSIE POUNDED to yet another peak. The index ended just below its day's best, up 71.9 points to 6,513.1 - its first close above 6,500. Supporting indices were also strong. Turnover again topped 1.1 hillion shares. Tesco, on results, led the Footsie leader board with a 9.75p gain to 169.25p, with Amvescap, the US fund manager, not - in percentage terms - far behind with a 38p gain to 670.5p. Barclays, on the brief reign of chief executive Michael O'Neill, rose 46p

Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were treading water at midday, paring gains amid jitters over Intel earnings - due out after the market closed - and the Kosovo crisis. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 2 points, or 0.02 per cent. at 10,342, having been as much as 79 points higher earlier in the day.

Technology stocks bore the brunt of the jitters over the announcement from the computer chip manufacturer Intel, and the Nasdaq was down 18 points at 2,581.

TOKYO

TOKYO STOCKS finished the day modestly higher, with Monday's rise on Wall Street tempering fears of a sharp correction in stock

But investors remained wary ahead of an earnings announcement from the US computer chip giant Intel, made after the New York stock market closed last night. The Nikkel index closed un

207.76 points - or 1.26 per cent - at 16,715.16, while Nikkei futures closed up 180 at 16,740.

HONG KONG

WALL STREET'S record Monday close pushed Hong Kong stocks to their highest levels in almost 18 months. The Hang Seng index closed 154.95 points higher at 11,899.69, having earlier hit an intra-day high of 11,956.43.

Howard Gorges, a director at South China Brokerage, said: "The blue-chips are doing well and there is interest in secondline counters and companies announcing corporate news."

Dealers said further gains were likely to be capped at 12,000.

THE PARIS bourse set its secood consecutive closing record for 1999. despite fears that the conflict in the Balkans will escalate.

The Cac-40 hit an intra-day high of 4,410.27, but tumbled by almost 100 points following reports that Serb troops had crossed into Albania. The index eventually

closed up 0.28 per cent at 4,367,41. One dealer said: "We saw a knee-jerk reaction to the news of the Serbs in Albania, and from now on the action there will bring increasing pressure on sentiment."

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TELEVISION REVIEW

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Business Breakteef (14998). 7.00 Ne B.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (9892462). 9.45 Can't Cook (S) (T) (365733). 10.15 The Vaness (4689268). 11.00 News; Regional News; (5653066). 11.05 City Hospital (S) (T) (90 News; Regional News; Westhar (T) (8340 Going for a Song (S) (8100695). 12.25 W (1683630). 12.50 The Westhar Show (S) 1.00 News; Westhar (T) (48424). 1.30 Re and Weather (5889172). 1.40 Neighbour (16159269). 2.05 Ironside (R) (1047627). 2 the Kayhole (S) (T) (2006882). BBC1

3.25 Children's B&C: Playdays (R) (S) (8443066). 3.48 Starhill Poniae (S) (4068578), 3.50 Hububb (R) (S) (7974578), 4.10 The Adventurae of Ghirley Holmes (R) (S) (7208286), 4.35 The Demon Headmaster (R) (S) (7431511), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (5470808), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (2231207).

Neighboure. Karl teams a lasson about life on the streets. Yup, those mean streets of Erinsborough (S) (T) (258240).

6.00 News| Weether (T) (801).

Regional News. And weather (T) (153).

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7,00 Holldey on e Shoestring. Reports on self-catering in Sarbados, a family holidey in Majorca and a log cabin neer Ulleweter (S) (T) (8576).

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Peter Snow is in New Zealand this week, where he discovers an unusual technique for extracting gold from the ground using plants (S) (T) (337).

8.30 8.00 Chenging Hooms. Two neighbouring eleters and thair husbands create a "Tuscan bistro feel" and a New England living room in each other's houses (A) (S) (T) (4898). Ba11ereee Doge' Home. Lionel Blair introduces his former Bettersea dogs, Florence and Jonny (S) (524172)

9.00 News; Regionel Naws; Weather (T) (570608) 8.50 Netional Lottery - Greatost Hits (S) (419801).

Murphy 1995 US). Die Herd clone sterring chermiess action beefceke Steven Seagal as the ex-Navy SEAL end gourmet chaf Casey Ryback. This time he decides to take a holiday in the Rockles when, by a strangs coincidence, the trein he boerds happens to be the command centre for terrorists plenning to hold the no to ransom with a stoen killer satellife. In Eric Bogosian as the chief baddle end Katherine gl as Seegal's little lady (S) (9229527).

O

11.05 Film 99 with Jonethen Ross. Jonno reviews An Ideal Husband, with Cate Stenchett, and, Raturn to Persulsa. Or, in Woss-speak, Weitum to Pawadise (849086).

11.40 IIIM Marathon Men (John Schlesinger 1976 US). Schlesinger was the wrong man to deliver the visceral thrills of William Goldman's book about e New York Jewish student (Duetin Hoffman) who becomes the target of en evil old Nezi. Laurence Olivier and the dentistry scane make it memorable, however (543337). Joins B&C News 24 (86826486). To 6em

BBC2

(14998). **7.00** News (T) (43337). 462). **9.45** Can't Cook, Won't **9.15** The Vanassa Show (S) (T) Regional News; Waether (T) Regional News; Waether (T) Regional News; Waether (T) Resthar (T) (8340658). **12.00** 695). 12.25 Wipeout (S) than Show (S) (T) (76821627). 18424). 1.30 Regional News 40 Neighboure (S) (T) 40 (1047627). 2.55 Through

3.30

19th-century San Franciso Twein (R) (S) (T) (166530)

9.00

9.00 Three Fights, Two Waddings end a Funerel.
Stave Coogan in the genius guise of his yobbish,
student-heting Mencunian, Paul Call, and elster Foulina,
who's marrying her Greek boyldend (R) (S) (T) (501578).

8.35 Louis Theroux's Weird Weakends. Louis Theroux attempts to inflitrate the strange sub-culture of right-wing patriots and survivalists in the hills of idaho in this repeat offering (Followed by Video Neilon Shorts) (R) (S) (T) (842337).

10.35 Newenight. Jeremy Paxmen (T) (983375)

11.20 The Sattle tor Congress. Concluding part of Ann Parisio's fly-on-the-well look at the 1998 Congressional election race in California (S): (1) (699563).

12.00 Daspe1ch 8ox (314/4). 12.30 Open University: The Chemistry of Survivel (55825). 1.00 Tha Chemistry of Chemistry of Survivel (55825). **1.00** The Chemistry of Power (15844). **1.30** The Chemistry of Life and Desth (52883). **2.00** Exam Revision: GCSE Bitesize Revision History 1 (20486). **4.00** Langueges: Deutsch Pius Sele8860). **5.00** Bueinese end Treining: So You Went to Work in Sociel Cere? (81396). To 5.30am.

7.10 Children's B&C: The Silver Brumby (R) (S) (9864576).
7.35 Top Cat (R) (8298714). 7.55 The Bote Mester (R) (S) (8290530). 8.20 Help! It's the Hair Beer Bunch (R) (8605801). 8.40 Trading Piecee – French Exchange (R) (S) (9182207). 8.10 Goober and the Ghost Chasere (R) (S) (7980609). 9.35 Student Bodiee (R) (B) (B038240).
10.00 Teletubblee (R) (S) (30375).

10.30 131171 Bebes in Toylend (Jack Donohue 1961 US).
Disney version of Victor Herbert's operatts, personally eupervised by Uncle Welt himself. With Ray Bolger, and Annette Funicello as Mary Contrary (20158714).

12.10 The Cer's the B1er (R) (S) (7726424). 12.30

Working Lunch (54882). 1.00 Brum (R) (S) (36133649).

1.10 The Lefeure Hour (R) (S) (1735153). 2.10 Sporting Greats (S) (58607801). 2.40 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (8216153). 2.45 Westminster (S) (T) (5802694). 3.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7013269). 4.00 The Village (R) (S) (7023648). 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (S) (T) (7026733). 4.55 Eather (R) (S) (T) (9218443). 5.30 Whose House? (S) (530).

B.00 Bter Trek: The Next Generation. "Thie's Arrow" (part 2). Data and Guinen are now (rapped in 18th-century San Francisco with e very etrenge Mark

0.30 Home Front. New series of the homo-design show in which Jocasta innes makes over a London home with idea pinched from 1930s America (the nice bits, obviously. We're not talking Grapes of Wrath) (4375).

6.45 Butfy the Vampire 6leyer. Two eclence-club boffins use body parts to creeta the "perfect girlfriend" for a teenegar who hes been brought bock from the deed (S) (T) (508207).

7.30 Leviethen. Boxer Chris Eubenk travels to Athens in search of the mythic and real origins of the marathon. And geneticist Steve Jones telks about the history of genetically modified foods (S) (207).

INITIES The Naked Chef. Twenty-three-year-old chef Jamie Oliver gives TV cookery e youthful bent. See Cookery Show of the Day, below (S) (T) (5240).

9,00

3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (6748375).

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Emmerdele. Rachel demands answers from psycho boyfrlend Graham, as Biff and Kathy go public (S) (T) (3646).

Coronetion 81ree1. Alleon continues to coldehoulder Kevin. Nick and Leanne continue to drift apart (5) (7) (733).

IGIDINE OIR'S Night. A bingo-winner and hor cencer etricken elster-in-law go on the holiday of a lifetime. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (7172).

11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weether (T) (902530). 11.20 London Tonight (T) (81849).

12.30 [I][M] A Child Lost Forever (Claudia Well 1982 US). Beverly D'Angelo investigates when the son she gava up for adoption 20 years previously dise suddenly (115554). 11.30 The Big Me1ch. Highlighte of the FA Cup semi-linel replay between Mancheetar United and Areenal (61765).

2.15 HILLY Geolbreak (Francis Searie 1961 LK), 8-movie thriller with Peter Reynolds (6764736), To 325am.

Carlton

3.20 Children's ITV: Maley (5708646). 3.25 The Story Store (R) (S) (5727882). 3.40 Jumanji (R) (S) (T) (2426601). 4.05 Hey Arnoldi (R) (T) (7007606). 4.35 Wildrack (T) (7468207). 5.00 Lie Detector (T) (3682).

Mind the Gep. Game show in which three contestants take a general knowledge tour of the capital using the London Underground map. It's due to last 30 minutes, but I should add en extra half-hour for sefety (356).

London Tonight. Regional news updata for the capital and the South-East (T) (269).

tTV Evening News; Weether (T) (849).

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[P][D][P] The Unesen Royels. "Never-before-seen footaga end photographs of the royal family". See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (4085).

11.30 11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show (T) (8424). So Grehem Norton (R) (374996).

Soerd 81upid (5872467), **1.50** Football Itelia – Mezzanotte (22236660), **4.00** Transworld Sport (2779889), **4.55** Electric Avenue (42295370), **5.25** Allia Atkina (9533979), **5.35** The Pink Penther Show (2749650), **5.55** Seeame Streat (5808283). To 7am.

.00 QMTV (2835172)

9.26 Trisha (S) (T) (3588443), 10.30 This Morning (T) (56574685), 12.20 Your Shout (9278424), 12.30 ITV Lunchtime Newe; Waether (T) (2686649), 12.56 London Today (T) (2657240), 1.26 The Jarry Springer Show (S) (T) (4638356), 2.10 Lie Detector (T) (89601627), 2.40 Wheel of Fortuna (S) (T) (2002066).

8,00

Dewson's Creek. Precoclous teanage Boston suburbanites, A homecoming dance brings Pacey and Andle together, but drives Dewson and Joay epart (T) (104578).

7.00 6.50 T4orce (970882). Chennel 4 Newe; Weether (S) (T) (474269)

7.55 The A-Z ot Scotlend. Tonight's programme ranges from Scotlish kitsch to oil rigs (361269).

8.00 Brookside. Lindsey has a plan. Enough said (S) (T) (7606).

8.30 She's Gotte Neve I1. Liza Tarbuck hite Newcastle with thrae local girle whose mission is to look good in this seasone hotteet colour. Yellow, apparently in this aeas (T) (6443).

9,00 ER. A curlous Graane discovers that Anspaugh never checked seriel fantaeist Amanda Lee's credentials. And an egorephobic is coaxed out of her house for the first time (S) (T) (5191).

10.00 Sex end the City. Cerria is introduced to Mr Sig's mother as his friend. Miranda breska up with a Catholic guy bacause of hie sexual hang-upe (S) (T) (22795).

10.30 Eurotresh (S) (T) (31443).

12,45 12.10 Silversione GT Recing (7302844).

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THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 14 April 1999

(R) (S) (T) (2653849), **7.30** Milkshekel (S) (244/207), **7.35** Muppet Bebies (4865820), **5.00** Hevakezoo (R) (S) (8645/S3), **8.30** Dappledown Farm (8644/24), **9.00** Hot Proparty (R) (S) (T) (45/8648), **9.25** Russell Grant's Postcerds (R) (3083917), **8.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (S) (665801), **10.20** Sunest Beach (S) (T) (4058375), **11.10** Laeza (R) (S) (37/3240), **12.00** S News at Noon (S) (T) (8648240), **12.30** Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (2645820), **1.30** The Boid and the Beautiful (S) (T) (2645820), **1.30** The Rossanne Show (S) (6485040), **2.00** 100 Par Cent (S) (2956337), **2.30** Good Affamoon (8549207).

9.00 **6.00 Beseme Street** (R) (71088). **7.00** The Big Breekfaet (69375). 00 The Bigger Breekfes1 (T) (34530), 9.30 Sam and Mex (78462), 10.00 Catclog (3825/72), 10.20 Boy Meets World (3634820), 10.45 Moasha (369795), 11.15 The Bigger Breakfast (636/820), 11.30 Powerhouse (6172), 12.00 Sesame Streat (R) (T) (21066), 12.30 Sewitched (89578), 1.00 Carolins in the City (62462), 1.30 The Three Stooges (16148785).

1.55

4.00 **Chennel 4 Recing.** Flet racing from Newmarket (the 205, 2.35, 310 and 3.45pm races) end Nationel Hunt racing from Cheltenhem (the 2.20, 2.55 and 3.30pm races) (69469620).

5.30 Fif1een 10 One (T) (462), 4.30 Countdown (T) (7465576), 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (9203511).

3.30 IIIM The Golden Gete Murders (Walter Greumen 1979 US). Murder mystery in which detective Devid Janssen teame up with nun Susanneh York to investigate the suspicious death of a priest, who had fallen/been dropped off San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge (271879S).

A

Pe1 Rescue, "Some of the bast enimal stories from the first series of Pat Rescue" (R) (T) (986).

8.00 & Newe, Including Fire1 on Five. National and international news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (6940917). 5.20 5 News (S) (T) (59073549). 5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (59085820). 5.30 100 Per Cent (6943004).

5.30 Family Affeirs. The police arrive at Peles flet and bagin dusting for printe (S) (T) (5931269).

7.00 Knight Rider. The telkelive car helps David Hasselhoff investigate the theft of some government military equipment (R) (2950153).

7.30 Animei Marvele. How fish communicate in Finnish? Ho ho (S) (T) (6920153).

6.00 My Titanic. Lorry driver Jeff Waghorn recalls the day in Novambar 1996 when he neerly lost his life in the Channel Tunnal fire (S) (T) (9134820).

0.00 born Bed (Jeff Yonis 1997 US). A gang of borad leenegars decide to rob a benk for kicke. As you do it all goes horribly wrong, of course, end they are forced to take hoetages. Juetin Walker, Corey Faldman end Jamea Remar star (S) (T) (23342172).

10.40 No1 the Jeck Docherty Show. Eightles popsensations Nick Karshaw and Howerd Jones keep the led company (4444SII).

11.20 UK Raw. A dominetrix, end e man who wanta to be a zebre (6118375).

11.50 Live end Dengerous (35704284). 4,30 Live end Dengerous (continued) (7022478). 5,30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (6730263). To Barn.

THEFYISION GUIDE BY GERARID GILBERT



Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Tuesday

to catch a glimpse of Princese Margaret in the beth, or the Queen picking her nose, should be warned; this is just not that kind of programme. Simoo Kerfoot's documentary is monarchical PR of the familiar sort with "ordinary" people sharing their memories of their close encounters with the royels. Princese Diana (right) was so much more heautiful in the flesh, Charles more down-to-earth, etc., ctc. The only note of subversion is Kerfoot's use of music – the theme tune

THE NAKEO CHEF (8pm 66C2, right) You can tell that Jamie Oliver is young because ha says "pucka" all the time and slides down the banisters of his spiral stalrease on his holtom. He also speaks at 100mph in class-indistinctive Mick Jegger ish cadences and has a healtly disregard for healthy eating. Double cream, brandy and lashings of hutter accompany his first menue a tasty looking seafood noodle cockail, followed by lamb with pancetta, and vanilla-baked fruit. Oliver, already a veteran of The River Café at the age of 23, has an unsquarmish passion for his cooking which resembles The Two Fut Ludics more than anyone else. Pucka stuff.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

COOKERY SHOW O

F THE DAY

FILM OF THE DAY